

Onion (green)	400	00
Onion (dry)	400	00
Orange	500	00
Pepper (ball)	400	00
Pepper (sweet)	500	00
Potato	400	00
Ranch	400	00

Islamists warn Yeltsin of Chechnya conflict

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Wednesday sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin urging Russia to end its military intervention in Chechnya and stressing that armed conflict was bound to damage the interests of both the Russian and Chechen peoples.

The message, sent via the Russian ambassador to Jordan, said the IAF hopes Moscow would re-examine its position towards the Chechen republic and end the armed conflict which only deepens hatred between the two sides.

"The IAF members of the Jordanian Parliament, acting from the religious links with the Chechen people and out of belief of the Chechens' right to self determination and with a view to ensuring the continuation of the good relations between your country and the Arab and the Islamic World hope that the military attack on the Chechen republic would be immediately halted," said the message.

The message said that the conflict was bound to trigger a long war of attrition with the two peoples of Russia and Chechnya paying a heavy price similar to the situations that resulted from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Vietnam.

Nothing that Russia is numerically and militarily far stronger than the Chechen republic, the IAF statement said that these were not sufficient elements for deciding the outcome of the conflict. The Chechens have a just

cause and enjoy the sympathy and support of the world and that renders any military victory futile in restoring peace and security to the region, the message stressed.

"The IAF members of Parliament in Jordan do not accept the Russian determination to retain the Chechen republic within the Russian Federation against its people's wishes and do not wish to see Russia ruling the Chechen area after devastating it and obliterating its people. It is therefore more sensible for Russia to halt the war and direct the funds being spent on it towards improving the economic conditions of the Russian people," said the statement.

The statement reminded the Russian president of the fact that Russia was keen on maintaining strong ties with the Arab and Islamic World based on mutual respect and that this fact ought to prompt Russia to listen to the call of reason and wisdom and open serious negotiations that would ensure the right of the Chechen people to self-determination.

The IAF statement said that the Russian attack can only be interpreted as an act of colonisation, "motivated by the lust for imposing oppression on the weak nations."

The Jordanian government Tuesday deplored the current events in the Chechen area as tragic urging the warring parties to settle their dispute through peaceful means.

Tourism minister honours tourist police officers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Wednesday honoured a number of tourist police officers during a ceremony, held at the ministry, attended by Minister Mohammad Adwan and senior Public Security Department (PSD) officers.

Tourist police play a key role in reflecting the image of Jordan to the outside world, through the visitors to the country, and also in ensuring the success of the tourism industry in the Kingdom, said the minister at the ceremony.

"The honouring of the officers reflects the country's appreciation of their vital service to the nation," added Dr. Adwan who presented the ministry's shields to Brigadier Adel Amouti, Colonel Mohammad Rousan, Captain Majed Masaadeh,

and Lieutenant Mohammad Omari, all from the PSD.

In a separate development Wednesday the minister of tourism received at his office a delegation of Chinese journalists and briefed them on the development of tourism industry in the Kingdom and the promotional activities over the last few years.

Dr. Adwan said Jordan was looking forward to closer cooperation with China in tourism affairs.

The journalists, who are here at the invitation of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), have already visited the Nabatean city of Petra and other archaeological sites and pledged to write articles about their experiences in Jordan in the Chinese press.

JPA Director Fakhri Abu Hamdeh was present at the meeting.

Israeli human rights lawyer ends visit, says Arabs should not normalise unless occupation ends

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israeli human rights lawyer Lea Tsemel, who Wednesday ended a three-day visit to Jordan, says that she is against normalisation of Arab-Israeli relations if it meant "normalisation of Israeli occupation."

Ms. Tsemel, 50, is well-known for defending Palestinians against what she described as "the arbitrary rules of the Israeli occupation" and has for over twenty years represented hundreds of Palestinians in Israeli prison camps charged with different offences.

Ms. Tsemel's clients include members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Hamas resistance movement and Al Jihad Al Islami, she revealed.

"I will take on any case that is an outcome of the Israeli occupation of Palestine," Ms. Tsemel told the Jordan Times in an interview, adding that her visit to Jordan was prompted by the fact that "there are so many Palestinians in Jordan" who require her services.

Thousands of Palestinians have been denied entry to the West Bank after their exit-and-return permits were expired, and the Israeli authorities have refused countless applications for Palestinian family reunification permits.

During her stay in the Kingdom, the lawyer took on a number of cases related to "Palestinians' right of return" to the occupied West Bank, and gave free consultations on the legal status of tens of other deported Palestinians, she said.

Ms. Tsemel, who lives in Jerusalem, said that she has always wanted to come to Jordan and help Palestinians here but that as

an Israeli, visiting an enemy country would have been regarded as an offence to her own, she said in explaining the timing of the visit.

"The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty enables me to be in direct contact with my clients here," she said, adding that before the accord contact with many of her deported clients in Jordan was done through their relatives in the West Bank.

Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty ending a 46-year state of war between them on Oct. 26. Under the accord, the two sides recognised that the "human problems caused by the conflict in the Middle East cannot be fully resolved on the bilateral level" and that the parties will solve them in accordance to international law in a "quadrilateral committee together with Egypt and the Palestinians" in the case of displaced persons, and "in the framework to be agreed, bilateral or otherwise, in conjunction with and at the same time as the permanent status negotiations (Israeli-Palestinian) pertaining to the territories" in the case of refugees.

But some Palestinians attacked the Kingdom's treaty with Israel saying that it fell short of addressing the issue of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons and that Jordan has abandoned their case moving towards normalising ties with Israel which continues to occupy Arab land.

Asked if she was against normalising Arab-Israeli ties, Ms. Tsemel said that she opposed "normalising occupation" and that "everything in the field of normalising ties with Israel should be carefully examined" to avoid "normalisation of occupation."

She said that she was optimistic that the Palestinian-Israeli limited self-rule accord reached in April "could be the frame for further development and achievement for the Palestinian people" whom she said were "experienced with the occupation and would take care that the Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion (PLO) would bring them back their rights."

Meanwhile, negotiations between Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis, and Egyptians over displaced and refugee Palestinians are underway for the purpose of attaining an Israeli recognition of Palestinians' right of return.

Jordanian officials Tuesday told the Associated Press (AP) that Jordan has asked Israel to allow the repatriation of 80,000 Palestinians who were denied entry to the Israeli occupied territories because of expired exit-and-return permits.

Heads of the refugee committee for talks with Israel, Marwan Dudin said that he presented the Israeli authorities with a list of 6,250 names to be allowed into the occupied territories and that the Israelis approved the request "in principle" but no formal reply to that effect has yet materialised.

But despite the heavy criticism Ms. Tsemel has received for "meddling into the negotiators' business," the lawyer insists that these parties "should realise that they should anticipate the cooperation of other parties like human rights activists and organisations that show a different angle of the situation."

A Palestinian lawyer, assisting Ms. Tsemel in her mission in Amman, said that he was sceptical that the negotiations would prove fruitful and that "people who have the right to return to their own homeland have more chance of being granted that right by resorting to the law."

About 2000 Palestinians have been deported from the West Bank since 1970 for "security reasons" and only 110 were allowed to return several months after the autonomy accord.

Moreover the fate of over 900,000 Palestinians who fled the territories following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war hangs in the balance until 1996 when Palestinians and Israel start negotiations over the final status of the territories, as stipulated in the Oslo autonomy accord.



A scene from Wednesday's session of the Lower House of Parliament (photo by Youssef Allan)

Lower House demands old pensions raised

AMMAN (Petra) — Parliament members Wednesday demanded that the government include all retired employees in the amended pension law, allowing them to get similar raises: 16 per cent for civilians and 25 per cent for security forces personnel.

The government last Saturday announced the increase but said that they will be applicable for those retiring as of the beginning of December.

Speaking at a regular session other deputies raised the question of insufficient animal feed for poultry farms in the Mafraq region, shortages in olive saplings for farmers and also demanded a delay in the application of newly-announced courts fees.

Minister of State for Parliamentary and Legal Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammo said that the ministry was coordinating closely with the security authorities to prevent the vandalising and looting of archaeological sites.

The House later referred to its finance and law committees the draft laws on the military and the civil pension.

The House referred to Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Isbeidat a proposal about linking the homes in the Kamaliyah-Sweilich district with the public

sewerage system. The House referred to Minister of Supply Adel Qudh a proposal by Deputy Ahmad Kofahi about doubling the amount of subsidised rice and sugar to limited income groups.

Following the Parliament session, Dr. Majali met the Lower House Speaker Saad Srour and House members in a private meeting to discuss a number of political issues.

Reporting on the two-hour meeting with Dr. Majali, Mr. Srour said the prime minister briefed the deputies on progress in mending relations between Jordan and the other Arab states, and also on Jordan's position at the Casablanca Islamic summit meeting.

The prime minister clarified Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the conference and the question of holy Jerusalem and Jordan's trusteeship of its Islamic shrines, said Mr. Srour.

Dr. Majali also briefed the deputies on the current efforts aimed at improving inter-Arab relations.

A lengthy debate on these topics followed the briefing, according to Mr. Srour.

Na'im: First Arab woman winner of Goethe Medal

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Dr. Laila Na'im will be the first Arab woman to win the 1995 Goethe Medal, the American Goethe Institute announced.

Dr. Na'im will be awarded the medal in March in the German city of Weimar, said the Goethe Institute's Director Dieter Glade at a press conference on Tuesday. The award is in appreciation of Dr. Na'im contribution to intellectual, cultural and social relations between Germany and Jordan.

The award is named after Johannes Wolfgang von Goethe, an 18th century German poet who was deeply influenced by Arab thinking. Goethe maintained a very critical view of contemporary attitudes

towards Arab culture. His final work, "The East-West Divan" was an appeal to humanity to discover the origins of human culture in the Orient.

The medal is awarded annually to personalities from throughout the world who have contributed to a "more humane and understanding world," said Dr. Glade. The award has traditionally been awarded to Europeans and North Americans with a smaller number coming from other parts of the world. In the Middle East, the award has gone to three Egyptian scientists.

Recipients have generally been Germanists, but as of late, the institute has awarded other personalities for cultural endeavours who are the "avant-garde" of their fields. Last year, director Billy Wilder was awarded

the Goethe Medal for his life's work in film. Mr. Wilder has tackled some of the most demanding social issues of the century: politics, love, passion, loneliness and the horrors of war.

Among his notable and famous works are "Some Like It Hot" and "Irma La Douce."

"We are happy and proud that Dr. Na'im will be awarded the first medal to a Jordanian," said Dr. Glade. Born in Tiberias, Palestine, Dr. Na'im attended the German school Talitha Qumi College. She studied philosophy in Hamburg, Germany with a Bachelor of Arts in German literature and Islamic Studies. According to Dr. Glade, Dr. Na'im's translations of modern Arab lyrics into German and German verse and prose into Arabic have been two of her major contribu-



Laila Na'im

tions to cultural understanding. Her work in German and Arabic languages has also included lectures on German literature in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well as numerous presentations on Arab litera-

ture to German audiences in the form of lectures, symposia and articles.

"When I first heard about the award, I was a bit sad," said Dr. Na'im. "Although I am honoured and am on the way to being happy about it, I am disappointed not to have the recognition of society in my home country."

Dr. Na'im's latest work is a piece called "Cassandra 2000," a complex project founded on two literary pieces of classical and modern literature: the "Orestia" by Aeschylus and "Kassandra" by Christa Wolf. This work, she says, aims to create a parallel text between the two pieces — including an analysis of the complex Cassandra and the review of the myth from the viewpoint of a modern Arab woman.

She has been working on the project for six years.

and said the work is set to be published within the coming few months. The Goethe Institute is planning a symposium on the work for the fall of 1995.

The Goethe Institute is the largest German organisation committed to transmitting German culture through teaching the German language and furthering international cultural cooperation. The institute has been well established in Amman for more than 30 years. Its cultural programmes include lectures on literature, history, politics, environment and economics, reflecting the spectra of German intellectual and artistic life. The institute presents these issues from both a German perspective as well as a Jordanian and Arab perspective, upholding Goethe's principal of a World Culture.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FRANCO-ARAB CINEMA FESTIVAL

★ Film entitled "The Lost Necklace of the Dove" (Tunisia, France/Italy 1991) at Cinema Concorde on Thursday at 8:30 p.m. Also showing another film entitled "Curfew" (Palestine/Holland 1993) on Friday at 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

★ Children's film (in French) entitled "Le Capitain" at the French Cultural Centre on Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
★ Film entitled "Alice in Wonderland" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
★ Film entitled "Mujeres Al Borde De Un Ataque De Nervios" at Instituto Cervantes (The Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

CONCERT

★ Concert (supervised by Ms. Irine Kilani) at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

★ Bani Hamida Christmas Display with a variety of small gift items at Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman, First Circle, Rainbow Street.

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by poets Abbas Jilan and Ali Kilani at the Jordan Engineers Association on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Plastic art exhibition by Laila Kawash at the Royal Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition of paintings on leather by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabdub at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
★ Painting and water colours exhibition by Suhail Ma'touq at Baladna Art Gallery.
★ Art exhibition by Ammar Khammash and Foad Mimi at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
★ Exhibition of works by Mahmud Obaidi at Darat Al Funun. Also showing an exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.
★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
★ Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at the French Cultural Centre.
★ Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Mubay Khaleefa at the Housing Bank Gallery.

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Berlusconi calls for snap elections

ROME (AFP) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi warned Wednesday he would call for fresh elections if parliament failed to back his beleaguered rightist government in a confidence vote.

His warning was contained in a speech to parliament distributed before he delivered his address.

"If this majority falls apart, it will be necessary to go back to the voters to seek their opinion in a determined and serene fashion," he said.

"I am convinced that this is the path which we must follow and I think that it will be inevitable."

But the session was suspended for almost an hour before Mr. Berlusconi began his speech, after deputies of the ruling parties demanded five coverage of the Berlusconi speech and 20-hour debate. Proceedings resumed at 3.40 p.m. (1440 GMT) and were being televised throughout.

Mr. Berlusconi said in his prepared speech that there

was a working majority in parliament that had been legitimised by voters, which was the ruling majority of his Forza Italia, neo-fascist National Alliance and federalist Northern League.

Saying that "sovereignty belongs to the people," he appealed to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who has the constitutional right to dissolve parliament and call for an election, to back his position.

Mr. Scalfaro is said by aides to prefer replacing the prime minister, even for an interim period, rather than calling a snap election.

Mr. Berlusconi branded his coalition partner Umberto Bossi, the feisty Northern League leader, a "genuine political destroyer" for withdrawing his support for the government.

"For seven long months Italy's international prestige, the credibility of our currency and securities on international financial markets, the stability and credibility of our

institutions have been threatened."

The "boorish" Bossi had obstinately tried to discredit Italy and turned from fighting against the old scheming political class into a "partisan and factious" player.

"The principal mistake of this government is that it thought it was dealing with a politician who may be a petty critic but loyal but that in reality it dealt with a double, triple maybe quadruple personality."

Mr. Bossi said last week he had broken with Mr. Berlusconi by saying there would be a new government which would "last until the end of the legislature," in other words, until May 1999.

Mr. Berlusconi said the earlier a decision was made on early elections, "the less will be the cost for the country."

"We absolutely need a period of political stability with a government unexposed to rackets and political destabilisation," Mr. Berlusconi went on, saying there could be no return to the old system that dominated post-war Italian politics.

Deputies and senators who want to remain faithful to the pact of civilisation and honesty struck with the voters (in the March 27-28 elections) are numerous and can be found in all political forces including the League," he added.

Mr. Berlusconi appealed to League leaders to acknowledge the validity and inalienability of the government pact that was the basis of the present coalition grouping his Forza Italia, the Northern League and the National Alliance.

President Scalfaro said Wednesday that parliament was the expression of the people's will, implicitly rebuffing Mr. Berlusconi's call for early elections if the embattled premier loses a confidence vote.

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Men examine a tree blocking a road near San Cristobal De Las Casas in Chiapas state. Hundreds of farmers supporting the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army occupied several villages and felled trees to block eight roads throughout the state, Mexico's poorest. The hammer welcomes people to the rebel state of Chiapas (AFP photo)

Troops enter Mexican rebel territory

PUERTO CATE, Mexico (R) — About 1,000 troops and police backed by tanks recaptured this village Tuesday without resistance and prepared to advance to the rebel occupied town of Simojovel, threatening a fragile peace in the southern state of Chiapas.

On entering Puerto Cate, 24 miles (40 km) northwest of San Cristobal De Las Casas, government forces tore down banners proclaiming the village rebel-held territory put up Monday by troops of the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

The military column advancing on Simojovel included transport trucks, two light tanks, an ambulance and jeeps carrying heavy machine guns.

The advancing force comprised 600 police and 400 army troops who were to be used only if necessary as the Mexican military tried to avoid direct confrontation with the Zapatistas, a police commander told Reuters.

The commander said the troops were with the police to provide support in case of fighting. "Let's hope it's not necessary," he said.

Neither troops nor police encountered resistance in Puerto Cate. Residents said the rebels, who had renamed the town San Andres Sakamchen, fled late Monday into the surrounding mountains.

The commander told Reuters

their orders were "to get where it's blocked," meaning they were to move down the highway to Simojovel, running through rebel roadblocks, and clear out the town seized Monday by armed groups thought to be linked to the Zapatistas.

Masked men maintaining a rebel roadblock about 3 miles (5 km) outside of Simojovel earlier ordered reporters out of the area and threatened them with knives, pitchforks and shovels. They claimed not to be Zapatistas, but were working beneath hand-painted signs saying the area was now rebel territory.

Simojovel is 30 miles (50 km) north of San Cristobal. The moves represented a dramatic escalation in the Chiapas conflict, where an uneasy peace had held since a Jan. 12 ceasefire put an end to 11 days of fighting in which at least 145 people died.

The Zapatistas, who launched their New Year's Day rebellion by seizing several Chiapas cities but retreated to jungle strongholds where they remained until Monday, are demanding improved democracy and greater indigenous rights.

The Zapatistas said Monday that thousands of their troops had slipped through army cordons and seized 38 municipalities. Government officials denied the claim, but said that armed groups had burned the town hall in Simojovel and cut off its electricity.

Witnesses reported rebel troop movements throughout the heavily-wooded mountains in the area. At several points along the San Cristobal-Simojovel Highway, the way was blocked by piles of rocks and logs.

In the region near Ocosingo, scene of some of the heaviest fighting in January, many highways were blocked Tuesday, but the rebels were nowhere to be seen.

President Ernesto Zedillo in a brief statement called for patience in resolving the Chiapas conflict and said he had instructed Attorney General Antonio Lujan to investigate the events of recent days there.

But his recent proposal for a multi-party congressional commission to negotiate peace in Chiapas appeared to be in danger of collapse.

The centre-left Democratic Revolution Party said it would meet Tuesday to define its position, but threatened to stay out of the commission proposed by Mr. Zedillo and suggested that Congress form its own peace committee.

The Zapatista leader known as subcommander Marcos told reporters Monday the rebels rejected Mr. Zedillo's plan and said they would negotiate only with Chiapas Catholic Bishop Samuel Ruiz.

Gregory Peck leaves hospital after tests

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Gregory Peck left hospital Tuesday evening after undergoing a series of tests to determine the origin of a stomach pain he had complained of the previous night. A hospital spokesman said, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center spokesman Ron Wise said Peck, 78, who won an Academy Award in 1963 for To Kill A Mockingbird and who has starred in dozens of other Hollywood films over the last 50 years, was taken to hospital from a restaurant Monday. According to the Variety gossip columnist, Army Archerd, Peck suffered from a pinched nerve which caused him to lose over during dinner with his wife Veronica and physician Arnold Klein. "I had so many tests — I didn't know how healthy I really was," Archerd quoted Peck as saying. Peck has made more than 50 films including such classics as Twelve O'Clock High, Spellbound, The Gunfighter, Roman Holiday, and The Guns Of Navarone.

German lottery pays out biggest ever single win

WIESBADEN, Germany (R) — Germany's National Lottery paid out 21 million marks (\$13.4 million) over the weekend, its highest ever single win, officials said Tuesday. The winners, a gambling syndicate of four people who had faced a one-in-140,000,000 chance of being the only ones to scoop the jackpot, have asked not to be identified. In the summer, the jackpot rose to its highest level ever at more than 40 million marks (\$25.44 million) but was shared by four separate winners.

All Chinese to have new ID cards

BEIJING (R) — China is to issue new hologrammed identity cards as well as new passports to all Chinese in a sweeping move to try to curb fraud, the China Daily said Wednesday. The new methods were necessary to combat criminals employing increasingly sophisticated means to engineer fraud, the newspaper quoted Assistant Minister of Public Security Li Runsen as saying. The new ID card will replace the current cards, which were introduced in 1980, he said. It will feature a hologram of six separate pictures making counterfeiting difficult, Mr. Li said. No date has been set for the huge task, which could affect most of China's 1.2 billion people, the newspaper said. Criminals have found ways to forge the existing cards, the newspaper said, citing one case in which a man was found with 30 fake ID cards in his possession.

Polanski sues magazine for invasion of privacy

PARIS (AFP) — Film director Roman Polanski is suing French weekly Paris Match for some \$30,000 over alleged invasion of privacy in its latest issue, which includes a photo spread on him and his wife. Polanski and his actress wife Emmanuelle Seigner have instructed lawyer Gilles Dreyfus to begin legal proceedings against the magazine, which he says published photos of them without the couple's consent. The actor said the magazine's Dec. 13 edition was an "infringement of their private life, made all the more serious by the fact that the presentation makes the reader believe that it was done with their permission." Dreyfus, a leading celebrity lawyer who represents French actress Isabelle Adjani among others, has been instructed to demand 150,000 francs in damages from the magazine.

Amsterdam addicts live longer, steal more

AMSTERDAM (R) — Amsterdam's liberal drug policy has made the city's addicts healthier, but police and hospitals are now struggling to cope with longer-lived junkies, the local health authority said Tuesday. Programmes to hand out the free heroin substitute Methadone and ease addicts out of drug dependence now mean about 80 per cent of the Dutch capital's estimated 7,000 users are in relatively good health. But success is placing a heavy burden on public services who have to deal with addicts as patients or criminals for longer.

Savimbi: War is not over in Angola

PARIS (AFP) — UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi Wednesday accused Angola's regular army of pursuing the civil war and waging an offensive against his forces throughout the country in breach of a ceasefire.

Mr. Savimbi cast serious doubt on a ceasefire and political settlement signed last month by the government and his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), saying pieces of paper were not enough to bring peace.

"Across the country, in the southeast and in the north, government forces are on the offensive," Mr. Savimbi said in an interview with the French daily Liberation.

Even this morning they came out of Huambo (UNITA's former stronghold in the centre of the country) and after two hours of fighting with tanks and cannons they took one of our positions," he said.

Referring to the governing People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), Mr. Savimbi said: "The desire of the government to make peace is in question. The MPLA has not changed its philosophy. It is still reconciliation through force."

On the peace accord signed

in the Zambian capital Lusaka on Nov. 20, he said: "First of all, the government must show it is committed to agreements that have been made. It is not enough to sign a piece of paper."

The U.N.-mediated pact is a second bid to end the devastating civil war that has wracked Angola since independence from Portugal in 1975, when the formerly Marxist MPLA took power in Luanda.

UNITA renewed the conflict after losing U.N.-supervised elections in September 1992. Each side has accused the other of violating the new ceasefire, which took effect on Nov. 22.

Mr. Savimbi, in his first interview in months, has accused the Luanda government of trying to assassinate him.

Mr. Savimbi also said UNITA was divided and going through its worst crisis since it began fighting 28 years ago.

Mr. Savimbi, interviewed in Ballundo near his former stronghold of Huambo now held by government troops, denied reports that he had been wounded. He said he had not appeared in public recently because the government had repeatedly tried to kill him.

He rejected for security reasons an offer to meet Angolan President Jose

Eduardo Dos Santos in Luanda for peace talks.

"I am not crazy. Why should I go get killed?" he said. "In the current situation I am not going to Luanda. As long as they plan to kill me I am not playing the game."

He said Mr. Dos Santos could come to Ballundo or they could meet abroad. But he would not meet United Nations representative Alloune Blondin Beye who had said he was "a defeated man."

Both the government and UNITA have accused each other of violating a ceasefire signed in Lusaka last month as part of a pact to end 19 years of civil war.

"My main fear is that the government hope to regain all the lost territory before peacekeepers arrive... we cannot accept peace through humiliation," he said.

He said he feared the peace process could be derailed during the next two months as there would hardly be any United Nations soldier in Angola during that period.

But he would not accept any Portuguese or South African peacekeepers because he said Lisbon had provided Luanda with military aid and 8,000 South African mercenaries were fighting alongside government troops.

On the last day of a five-day congress, the first since the ANC swept to power in April, delegates grappled with resolutions calling for the radical overhaul of the public service, judiciary, army, police and media.

Honing in on a sensitive issue to whites, the ANC called for a shake-up in the civil service and the security forces and urged that the interim constitution be changed to overcome constraints on the process, particularly a clause guaranteeing public servants their jobs.

Seven months after South Africa's historic all-race elections in April, when the ANC won 63 per cent of the votes, the 1.2 million member public service is still dominated by white Afrikaansers.

"Until we transform the state machinery as a whole into a loyal instrument of democracy, transfer of power to the people will not be complete," a resolution said.

It recommended that government should consider "redeploying old (civil service) personnel... to areas where they could not sabotage change."

The ANC said a priority was a change in the Public Service Commission.

The interim constitution, drawn up by all political parties who took part in democracy negotiations before the elections, allows for the new government to govern for five years.

ANC endorses far-reaching policy issues

BLOEMFONTEIN (AFP) — The African National Congress (ANC) Wednesday endorsed far-reaching policy resolutions aimed at wiping out the last vestiges of apartheid from South African society.

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U.N. denounces aid agency leaving refugee camps

KIGALI (Agencies) — The U.N. refugee agency denounced Wednesday a decision by a French medical aid agency to pull out of Rwandan refugee camps in Tanzania as a callous publicity stunt before Christmas.

The French wing of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF-Doctors Without Borders) said Tuesday it pulled out of the camps at the weekend because aid was supporting the authority of Rwandan killers.

It also said the refugees were better fed than the Tanzanian population and a flood of international aid was excessive.

Chris Bowers, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman in the Rwandan capital Kigali, said he doubted the sincerity of the decision to leave and MSF's justification for it.

"There are a lot of people in UNHCR who would like to go home before Christmas too, who wished they had the luxury of throwing their hands in the air and leaving it to other people to care for refugees, most of whom are women and children," he told Reuters.

"We are astounded that MSF-France should come out with these comments because normally we are delighted to work with them."

"These comments are so ridiculous, juvenile and ill-conceived that UNHCR can

only suppose MSF-France is looking for some cheap publicity. Well, they've got it."

"However, while MSF-France are sitting in their homes at Christmas, UNHCR staff will be giving the refugees a decent balanced diet and, if this is against MSF-France's principles, then so be it."

Fiona Terry, MSF coordinator in Tanzania, said Tuesday the malnutrition rate among 400,000 Rwandan refugees in Tanzania was between two and four per cent compared with about seven per cent for Tanzanians.

Mr. Bowers said UNHCR was astounded that any aid agency should speak out against giving refugees food and other assistance, particularly as MSF-France had been working for the past seven months to improve the health of the refugees in Tanzania.

"Are they really suggesting that we should not give these people a proper diet?" Mr. Bowers asked. "Are they really suggesting that we should not give AIDS information and try and find ways of combating AIDS? Do they want more people to die from AIDS?"

Ms. Terry said Tuesday peanut butter was being added to ready-to-eat rations to make them taste better and chili con carne had appeared in a refugees' feeding programme. She said the

level of AIDS counselling in camps was higher than anywhere in the world.

Other aid agency workers privately supported the substance of MSF's concerns but questioned whether the move and publicity could do anything but damage the prospects for the refugees.

Mr. Bowers admitted, as MSF had said, that Rwandan Hutu extremists were stepping up control again over the refugees, who fled their homes during the genocide of up to one million people between April and July.

But UNHCR, he said, was already trying to improve security and measures proposed by MSF were already suggested by UNHCR.

"We are also concerned about the strength of the control which the elements of the former regime still exert over the refugees," Mr. Bowers said. "But MSF propose the very thing that UNHCR has been calling for — an international police force."

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi Tuesday called for immediate action by the international community to deal with the refugee problem in Tanzania and Zaire, Radio-Tanzania reported.

He met a UNHCR official in Dar Es Salaam before leaving for Zaire to discuss the problem with President Mobutu Sese Seko Wednesday, the radio said.

An estimated 650,000

Rwandan refugees are in camps in Zaire, which MSF-France withdrew from last month citing increasing insecurity and because the emergency was over.

15 killed in Burundi

Meanwhile, in the capital of Burundi, at least 15 people died as Hutu and Tutsi militias fought in the streets Tuesday, and the Burundi capital was paralysed Wednesday as sporadic shooting continued.

Tension between the tribes is at a flashpoint, raising fears that Burundi may plunge into a savage civil war like that which left between 500,000 and a million dead in its northern neighbour, Rwanda, where the ethnic mix is identical — 85 per cent Hutu and 14 per cent Tutsi.

That war broke out after the presidents of both countries were killed when their plane was shot down over Kigali on April 6.

Witnesses saw two bodies still lying in Bujumbura streets Wednesday, and said several houses had been pillaged in Bwiza, a mixed neighbourhood.

Communications Minister Germain Nkashimana told AFP that "around 15" people had been killed round the central market, and that an unknown number of others were killed in the Bwiza district of Bujumbura.



Anti-homelessness campaigner Abbe Pierre along with more than 100 people, including 50 (centre) squats a block of empty apartments, children in downtown Paris (AFP photo)

French homeless debate mired in politics

PARIS (R) — A French debate over how to help the homeless became mired in politics Wednesday after France's veteran crusader for the poor, Abbe Pierre, appeared to be taking sides in the presidential election campaign.

The 82-year-old priest who triggered an official outpouring of concern for the homeless earlier this week, threw publicly doubting the word of Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac and praising Prime minister Edouard Balladur.

Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur, though fellow Gaullist conservatives, are bitter rivals in France's two-round presidential election set for April 23 and May 7.

Abbe Pierre led squatters into an empty building in a chic Paris district at the weekend to dramatise the plight of those without shelter.

Mr. Balladur quickly promised to keep police away from the squatters until alternative housing could be found while Mr. Chirac pledged to requisition vacant Paris buildings to house those in need.

Abbe Pierre initially welcomed Mr. Chirac's offer, but later doubted he would

keep his pledge because the task had been entrusted to Mr. Chirac Deputy Jean Tiberi, who ordered the expulsion of squatters from city property in the past.

"As long as the Paris mayor keeps such a deputy, I believe that he is not able, that he cannot be trusted to govern France," the white-bearded priest told France Inter radio.

At the same time he had kind words for Mr. Balladur, praising him as "a man with whom dialogue is possible."

The priest's judgements were plastered across the pages of French newspapers Wednesday. "Is Abbe Pierre playing the innocent saint? Or has he fervently embraced the holy Balladur family?" asked the daily Infomatin.

Mr. Tiberi, Mr. Chirac's deputy, pronounced himself "pained and stupefied" by Abbe Pierre's statement, adding that Mr. Chirac "has made a public promise, and has given me the necessary orders to carry out his directives."

The conservative Chirac, widely blamed for the capital's gentrification and housing woes, was out of Paris Wednesday on a three-day campaign visit to the sunny island of Reunion, a French

territory in the Indian Ocean. Mr. Tiberi, however, remained in the capital, leading a meeting at city hall of insurance and banking company officials in a search for vacant buildings that might be drafted into the newly urgent war on homelessness.

Mr. Balladur spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy, meanwhile, questioned the soundness of Mr. Chirac's approach and touted an alternative more attuned to his conservative constituency.

"Requisitions may be all right for the most shocking of cases, but we must not be lulled into believing that requisitions are a panacea," Mr. Sarkozy said on France Inter radio.

"The proper approach is to build more housing on the one hand, and to assure on the other that the available housing is rented." He said, advocating bonuses to those who put long-vacant housing on the market.

Activists say there are between 200,000 and 800,000 homeless people in France and two million others living in slum housing, while up to two million flats are empty because owners fear squatters or are waiting for prices to rise again after a slump.



A picture taken on Dec. 24, 1989 of soldiers and civilians hiding behind a tank to protect themselves from snipers shooting in downtown Bucharest. Dec. 21, 1989 marks the

5th anniversary of the Romanian revolution which led to the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu's regime (AFP photo)

Romanian veterans remember revolution

BUCHAREST (R) — Veterans of the Romanian revolution, many crippled by bullets, took to the streets Wednesday in sombre parades to mark the fifth anniversary of the bloody overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Revolutionaries laid wreaths and prayed before crosses at strategic Bucharest intersections where thousands stood up to Mr. Ceausescu's Securitate secret police.

"We offered our bare chests to be shot," said 57-year-old Vasile Bala, clutching an old Romanian flag with the Communist era torn from the centre to leave a ragged hole.

"We started shouting anti-Communist slogans and 'down with Ceausescu.' At that moment the firing started. They shot a boy next to me in the head and I was shot in the foot," he said.

Dec. 21, 1989 was the day riots which had brewed in the western Transylvanian city of Timisoara exploded in the capital — turning isolated un-

rest into an unstoppable wave which became the bloodiest of Eastern Europe's revolutions.

Reports that security forces killed protesters in Timisoara seeped through the blackout of the paranoid security apparatus Mr. Ceausescu built up over almost 25 years in power.

Mr. Ceausescu apparently believed he could still control the situation. Television footage of that day shows him clearly alarmed when protesters interrupted his speech from the balcony of the Central Committee building — unheard of impudence.

"Silence comrades, silence," his wife and Deputy Prime Minister Elena can be heard shouting on the film.

Wednesday's protesters were almost silent, kneeling in prayer at University Square and elsewhere around Bucharest to remember the almost 1,200 people killed. By midday there were no mass protests, only modest gatherings of a few hundred veterans.

"I feel like crying when I think of those who died here, all those colleagues I lost," said 52-year-old Petre Marin, his thumbless hand horribly disfigured by a bullet wound.

Five years on Romanians have little to celebrate.

"Nothing has changed, nothing," said 20-year-old Ana-Maria Vasu who marched with veterans of Dec. 21. "We were horribly betrayed. When we took to the streets in 1989 it was for a better life, a better economic life, not only for freedom."

Now with living standards lower than under communism, high unemployment and 75 per cent inflation some Romanians wonder what they have gained from five years of democracy.

Others resent the fact that many members of the Communist old guard remain in power through the now democratically elected Party of Social Democracy. Such critics argue the overthrow of Mr. Ceausescu was a coup by fellow Communists rather than a genuine popular revolt against a hated dictator.

President Ion Iliescu Wednesday rejected that theory.

"It was a people's uprising which overthrew the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu," he said in a newspaper interview.

Elena and Nicolae Ceausescu fled Bucharest on Dec. 22 but were soon captured. They were tried for genocide and other crimes by a tribunal and shot by firing squad on Christmas Day.

Yet Romanians still know little of the truth of the events of 1989. In a Balkan country which thrives on conspiracies no one has officially ever cleared the air about exactly what happened, who did what and for what motives.

"The truth, the truth," veterans shouted during a joint special session of the Romanian parliament Wednesday.

"We are interested in learning the truth," said Adrian Dumitrescu, a leader of the Dec. 21 Association of Veterans. "Five years after, we have yet to learn who shot at us. Did we kill ourselves? Did we mutilate ourselves?"

U.N. upbeat on Carter truce pact

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations said Wednesday both sides in Bosnia's 32-month old war were serious in their pursuit to end hostilities after former U.S. President Jimmy Carter secured a ceasefire in the embattled republic.

"It is our understanding that both sides are serious in their pursuit of an agreement for the cessation of hostilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina," U.N. Protection Force spokesman Alexander Ivanko told reporters in Sarajevo.

His upbeat mood followed a ceasefire pact between the Muslim-led government and breakaway Serbs brokered by Mr. Carter, who wound up his whirlwind peace mission to Bosnia with a visit to Belgrade Tuesday. Mr. Carter left for home from Frankfurt Wednesday.

Mr. Carter, who made his name as international troubleshooter by defusing explosive crises in North Korea and Haiti earlier this year, pulled a truce agreement out of the hat Tuesday in his first foray into Bosnia.

Analysts of Bosnia's intrigue-ridden politics, where solemn commitments to stop fighting have proven ephemeral in the past, were sceptical about the latest of many ceasefire deals.

But Mr. Carter was confident this one was for real, saying both sides had agreed to silence their guns at noon Friday and then negotiate on "a total cessation of hostilities" by an end target date of Jan. 1.

The 70-year-old U.S. envoy, mediating privately but with strong U.S. diplomatic support, said negotiations would aim at a four-month ceasefire that could be renewed.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic invited U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi and UNPROFOR commander in Bosnia Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose to Pale to discuss ways of implementing the ceasefire agreement, his office said Wednesday.

Mr. Karadzic said in his invitation to the U.N. officials there was no time to waste and momentum gained towards achieving peace must not be lost.

Mr. Ivanko said Mr. Carter's agreement was a very positive development which "created certain momentum for peace" and that UNPROFOR was urgently assessing its implications.

A deal on cessation of hostilities would require U.N. soldiers to insert themselves between two armies along a front of more than 1,000 kilometres.

Mr. Ivanko said UNPROFOR had the troops necessary to interpose themselves

saying both sides had agreed to silence their guns at noon Friday and then negotiate on "a total cessation of hostilities" by an end target date of Jan. 1.

The town of Bihac, a U.N. designated safe area, suffered "probably the worst day... in quite a while," UNPROFOR spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said.

He said a total of 13 civilians were wounded in a mortar and tank attack on the town proper and a strike by two self-made missiles in the area of Zadar.

He said the self-made rockets appeared to be 250kg aircraft bombs with four free-flight 128mm rocket motors strapped to the back and a parachute to drop on target.

"They are not very accurate, they are very indiscriminate and they have the potential to kill a lot of people if they go off in the right place at the right time."

Mr. Carter flew to Belgrade later Tuesday to brief President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia.

"His (Carter's) presence undoubtedly expresses the commitment to peace of America and its President Clinton. This commitment deserves our full support and Serbia, will as it has so far, try to make its full contribution to peace," Mr. Milosevic told reporters.

Mr. Carter said all eight points of the ceasefire pact were agreed by both sides with the crucial exception of their attitude to a big power peace plan for Bosnia which Muslims accept but Serbs reject.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic called the plan a basis for a comprehensive settlement while Mr. Karadzic regarded it as only a starting point.

The plan awards 51 per cent of Bosnia to the Muslims and Croats and the rest to the Serbs, who now control 70 per cent.

One Western diplomat briefed by U.S. officials on Mr. Carter's mission said Washington's position appeared to have subtly shifted towards recognition that the plan might have to be tinkered with to bring the Serbs on board.

Mr. Milosevic met Wednesday afternoon with representatives of the five-nation "contact group" on Bosnia, diplomats said here.

The meeting with the representatives from Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States got under way around 3:00 p.m. (1400 GMT).

Sarajevans trudging to work in the snow Wednesday praised Mr. Carter's mediation efforts in Bosnia but doubted Serbs would honour their commitment to a four-month ceasefire.

N. Korea to return pilot's remains; hopes rise for survivor

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea raised hopes Wednesday that a downed U.S. helicopter pilot would be home by Christmas, saying it would release the remains of his dead colleague to a U.S. Congressman as a "humanitarian gesture."

The U.S. embassy in Seoul said simultaneously that Congressman Bill Richardson will cross the DMZ dividing the two Koreas at 10:00 a.m. (0100 GMT) Thursday with the remains of Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon.

North Korea said Officer Hilemon was killed when its gunners shot down a OH-58 U.S. observation helicopter when it strayed across the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) into North Korea Saturday.

"Richardson will be carrying the remains of Hilemon," U.S. Information Service officer Steve Rounds told AFP in Seoul. His copilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall, is alive and in custody, according to Pyongyang.

Mr. Rounds said that he believed the actual handover would take place just before Mr. Richardson crossed into the South at the truce village of Panmunjom.

"I am hopeful about Hall... I think the North Koreans are on the road to returning him," a U.S. embassy official said on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, reliable allied military sources told AFP that the repatriation deal was struck at a high level meeting in Panmunjom between the

North's Major General Ri Chan-Bok and a U.S. major-general.

An official American military statement said only that the repatriation followed a "series of meetings" at Panmunjom.

Mr. Richardson, a Democratic congressman, has been in Pyongyang on a scheduled visit, pressing on behalf of U.S. President Bill Clinton for the return of Hall and Hilemon's remains.

The breakthrough came after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher warned overnight that a further delay could affect improvement of ties between Washington and Pyongyang.

"We've indicated that a further delay here in return-

Tanker, freighter on fire after collision; 8 missing

LISBON (AFP) — Eight crewmen were missing Wednesday from a blazing oil tanker carrying 130,000 tonnes of crude and a freighter, after the vessels collided overnight off Madeira, naval and insurance officials said.

Rescuers were still searching Wednesday morning for the missing crewmen, several hours after the tanker, the Hong Kong-based New World, collided with the Cyprus-registered Ya Maw-

laya off the Portuguese island, a senior Portuguese naval officer said here.

It was unclear to which boat the missing eight belonged.

The situation on board the New World, where fire broke out after the collision, was under control. Fire was also blazing on board the Ya Mawlaya.

There was no indication as to whether oil was leaking from the tanker, said the

Portuguese authorities, who had sent a frigate to the scene.

In Paris, French petroleum company Total said the tanker had been en route from Gabon to its refinery in the northern French port of Dunkirk with 130,000 tonnes of crude oil.

The company said in a statement that the tanker was a "Suez Max" type vessel that entered service in 1991.

It is owned by World Tanker Carriers Corp., a subsidiary of Consolidated Navigation Corporation, and operated by Canada-based Expedito, Total said.

In London earlier, a spokesman for Lloyd's insurance brokers said 16 men had been found safe in a life-boat, adding that the New World put out an SOS at 01:00 a.m.

Irish premier wants to 'amend' constitution

LONDON (AFP) — The new Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said Wednesday he wanted to amend the clauses in the Irish constitution claiming the six counties of Ulster, but not do away with them altogether.

Articles two and three will not be "removed" but "amended to make it clear that there will be no change in Northern Ireland without the consent of the majority of the people in Northern Ireland," Mr. Bruton said in an interview on BBC Radio.

"That needs to be made clear. It's common sense, but it should be put in the constitution."

On Tuesday evening, Mr. Bruton and his British counterpart John Major reaffirmed their commitment to the so-called Declaration of Downing Street of Dec. 15,

1993, the basis of Anglo-Irish policy for the past year.

Mr. Bruton said London and Dublin intended to accelerate the Northern Ireland peace process by resuming consultations on the province's constitutional future in early January.

Emerging from more than two hours of talks with Mr. Major, Mr. Bruton told Channel Four television that both of them "intend to work very fast now" in elaborating a framework document on future multi-party talks on Northern Ireland.

Work on the document has been delayed for more than a month by the political upheaval in Dublin caused by the resignation of former Premier Albert Reynolds, which provoked a hiatus in bilateral talks and raised fears that the peace talks would lose their

impetus.

The document, which is not expected to be completed before the end of January, should contain a proposal to amend the Irish constitution, demanded by London. The 1920 Government of Ireland Act, which reaffirms British sovereignty over Northern Ireland, is also to be modified to include the formula that no change can be made without the consent of the population.

Meanwhile, a press report said Wednesday Irish Republican Army (IRA) units continue to operate throughout mainland Britain, where they are stockpiling ammunition and identifying targets.

A significant number of terrorists are drawing up hit lists of people and places that would be attacked in a bombing campaign if the Sept. 1



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Police to probe shooting of man near White House

WASHINGTON (R) — A homeless man, shot by police as he confronted them with a knife outside the White House, was listed as critical but stable Wednesday after two lengthy operations.

Law enforcement officials were investigating Tuesday's shooting of Marcelino Corniel who police said had chased an officer with a large knife and ignored orders to drop the weapon.

It was the fourth security incident on or near the White House grounds since mid-September and has sparked fresh concerns about security and the possible need to block off wider parts of one of the city's most-visited tourist sites.

Television tape of the incident raised concerns about the police response since it did not show the man lunging

at police when the shots were fired.

But authorities vigorously defended the action.

President Bill Clinton was working in the White House Oval Office when the shooting occurred and was never in any danger, officials said.

Mr. Corniel, 33, was listed in critical but stable condition early Wednesday after two four-hour operations for two gunshot wounds, one of which penetrated the chest cavity and hit his liver, the other to the right leg.

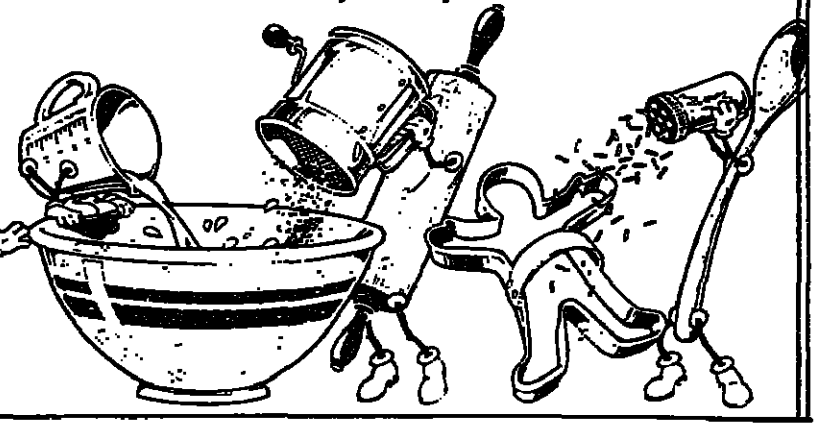
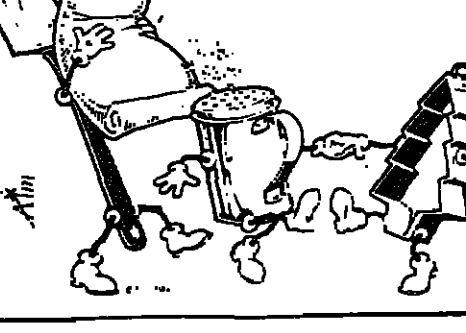
Sources in the U.S. attorney's office said Mr. Corniel would be charged with assaulting a federal officer and the only question was whether to charge him immediately or wait until he was "on the road to recovery."

Merle Goldberg, spokeswoman for George Washington University Hospital, said Mr. Corniel was taken into surgery a second time late Tuesday evening as doctors tried to stop bleeding in his abdominal cavity.

The shooting took place at 8:58 a.m. est (1358 GMT), on the pavement of Pennsylvania Avenue on the north side of the White House, said Sergeant Gregory Brown, a Park Police spokesman.

Television tape of the incident showed the man, carrying a long knife in his left hand, standing with his feet apart confronted by at least four officers aiming handguns at him on the wide sidewalk alongside the White House fence.

But the Park Service police officer who shot Corniel was not on the tape, arriving at the scene in a patrol car, officials said. They declined



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Perpetual threat remains

THE LONDON-based centre for Strategic Studies confirmed recently that Israel possesses no less than 100 deliverable nuclear bombs that can reach targets as far away as Iran, Iraq and the far reaches of the Gulf region. This revelation came as no surprise to the countries of the Middle East. The best evidence of Israeli nuclear capability was its refusal to ratify the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This Israeli stance has in turn prompted Egypt and other countries in the area to abstain from taking the necessary step to make the region nuclear-free.

What is also damaging about Israel's continued defiance of the international norms to renounce nuclear weapons is its lasting effect on peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours. The culture and psychology of peace in the region cannot be expected to remain unaffected by Israel's threatening posture. Israel's nuclear monopoly would only serve to extend its hegemony over the states of the entire area and this would not bode well for the peace climate that we all are trying to cultivate and encourage. It is one thing for Israel to demand the elimination of all mass-destruction weapons including biological and chemical arsenals and quite another to persist in enjoying military superiority. A much more sane position could be developed by the Israeli government by which security and safety for all nations in this part of the world are assured.

The presence of mass destruction weapons of whatever kind does not contribute to the sort of environment that we should strive for. Security arrangements between the countries can be established on something more stabilising than nuclear deterrence or biological bombs.

The ongoing peace process envisages multilateral negotiations with a view to eliminate the need for big and mighty military machines. The creation of a common market and the forging of peaceful relations among the countries of the Middle East would be frustrated as long as nuclear bombs hang ominously over the heads of Arabs and Israelis alike.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Bahrain, a columnist in Al Rai daily said that the leaders need more than a miracle to help them choose their priorities well. Tareq Masarweh said that the Gulf states currently face internal issues and external threats and suffer from financial difficulties because they have been counting on foreign powers to defend them at a very high cost. The writer said that the Gulf states are currently facing domestic opposition which is irking the regimes and confusing the situation further. Noting that the Gulf state of Kuwait, for instance, is linked by military alliances with the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, the writer said Kuwaitis still feel unsafe from danger coming from Iraq, Iran or Israel. The writer said that even if the Gulf states built up an 100,000-strong army, they would not be safe unless they reach a consensus on reconciling with their neighbours and mending fences with the Arab sister states.

A WRITER in Al Dustour urged the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to upgrade its law which is now 16 years old with a view to increasing the benefits for the pensioners. Mohammad Daoud said that the SSC is reaping huge profits from its investments in banks and development projects, sufficient to improve the rate of pensions offered to the retired citizens. The beneficiaries, who are covered by the SSC law, should not be responsible for the SSC's previous administrations' misjudgements or errors like investing in non-profitable projects, and they expect benefits to accrue from their premiums accumulating with the SSC over the past 16 years, added the writer. He said the SSC should introduce a modern law, taking into consideration the numerous loopholes in the existing law.

VIEW FROM ACADEMIA

Literary mediocrity, literary creation and literary guidance

By Ahmad Y. Majdoub

THROUGHOUT THE various literary circles in the Arab World, there is at present (and there has been for some time) a general dissatisfaction with the quality of modern or contemporary literary products. The works we have recently produced and those we are producing now are, many believe, decidedly "inferior" in both quality and quantity to what we produced in the good old days. On the whole this is true, for the times we are going through are not particularly congenial to literary creation, distinction and excellence. Naturally the reasons for such "decline," as it is often termed, are as varied and complex as the reasons for the decline of the overall Arab culture. Foremost among them, in my opinion, is the almost entire absence of critical assessment and guidance — a factor which is often ignored.

We should emphasise at the outset that not all of our contemporary creative works fail to live up to our expectations. There have been great successes and great breakthroughs. We have recently witnessed, and are still witnessing, the birth of masterpieces in various literary genres. One should by no means discount the contribution made (in the realm of novel writing) by Najeeb Mahfuz, Ihsan Abdul Qudous, Hanna Meena, Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, Al Tayyeb Saleh, Abdurrahman Munef, etc. and (in the realm of poetry) by Bader Shaker Al Sayyab, Nizar Qabbani, Abdulwahhab Al Bayyati, Amal Dunqul, Mahmoud Darweesh, Sameeh Al Qasem, etc. They all, and others, have created literary texts which rank among the best in the world, now and at all times. Saleh's "Season of Migration to the North," which has been translated into English and many other languages, is being read and written about not only in the Arab World but also internationally. Several critics have compared it to global eternal works of fiction, such as Melville's "Moby-Dick" and Conrad's "Heart of Darkness." Who does not enjoy, appreciate and value the immortal lines of Qabbani and Al Qasem?

Nevertheless, there is feeling of disappointment and even disillusionment throughout the Arab Nation. For one thing, the number of literary works of the calibre of Saleh's "Season" which can appeal strongly to competent readers in the Arab World and the world at large is small indeed. Most published works (and I mean "published," not in manuscript form) are of very poor or mediocre quality. I would say that only 5 per cent of what gets published these days is of any lasting value; the remaining 95 per cent (and I

am not exaggerating here) are either trivial and amateurish works or in need of serious revision and rewriting. For another, literary achievement has been immensely dispropor-tioned. Most of the luck or success we have had recently is in the sphere of poetry. The achievement in the short story, novel and (especially) drama has been quite modest. Compare the Arab novel to the South American, for example. Aside from the names I cited above, how many Arab novelists can one mention who may compete with Gabriel Garcia Marquez? How many serious plays can one find in the Arab World?

There are many reasons for the lack of literary originality and innovation and for the spread of mediocrity:

1. The Arab culture at large does neither stimulate nor encourage serious debate or original thinking. Our educational institutions and the various cultural establishments do not promote and foster critical thinking and exchange of opinion. Most often, literary creation is an outcome of the quality of discourse in the society to which it belongs. Henry James, often called "master of the novel," is right when he says: "Art lives upon discussion, upon experiment, upon curiosity, upon variety of attempts, upon the exchange of views and the comparison of standpoint." In our part of the world, there is very little "discussion," very little "experiment," very little "curiosity," very little "variety of attempts," very little "exchange of views," and very little "comparison of standpoint"; in other words, very little of everything James thinks is essential for innovation.

2. In our part of the world, it is easy to write and easy to publish. Most of our published as well as aspiring writers think writing is primarily (if not entirely) free and spontaneous. You get inspired, you sit down and record the feelings and ideas you experience and then you go to the publisher and publish. I am not denying here the importance of inspiration. No, but after inspiration comes revision. Creative writing is like any other type of writing: one has to write a first draft, a second, a third, etc., until the product looks good enough to be published. As for publication, if you know anyone influential at any of our institutions entrusted with the tasks of overseeing publications of sorts, you can publish any work you write. If not, bring the amount of JD 400 to any publisher and your book appears in two weeks in the market. No committee has to refer it, no editors have to revise it. In our society, publishing is as easy as having a haircut.

3. Writers do not get enough feedback, enough critical

assessment and enough guidance before they publish. This is the factor I wish to highlight most here, because this is what we can do something about.

In other parts of the world, when aspiring writers write poems, short stories, novels and plays, and after they revise them once, twice and three times, they show them to other people to get feedback as to what they ought to do to improve the quality of the work and precisely what they ought to revise and change. Drafts of poems, stories and plays are read the way exam papers are read for students. Our aspiring writers do not (generally) show the drafts of their literary works to anyone. The idea is just not there. When and if they show them to you, it is because they want you to praise their achievement.

The solution? At one level, we can say that when the cultural atmosphere changes qualitatively, the literary products improve qualitatively. Also, when publishing becomes more competitive, the published material improves in quality. These two, however, we do not have much control over under the circumstances.

But there is one thing we can do, namely to provide guidance for our aspiring authors. Help at this level can be provided in two ways. First, we ought to encourage our aspiring writers to form discussion groups. After a series of revisions, a person can show the clear draft of a literary text to a group of peers or superiors, depending on the situation one finds oneself in, and after he/she accommodates the various comments and suggestions one can think of publishing. Schools, universities and other culture and education establishments can play an important role in this respect, forming such groups and encouraging aspiring writers to join. Second, our universities ought to plan to make available MFA (Master of Fine Arts) programmes in which students enroll to learn the art of the trade or craft of writing poetry, short stories, novels, and plays. The MFA programmes are two-year graduate programmes open to a limited number of gifted students who have demonstrated the potential to be excellent future poets, novelists, etc. who meet weekly for two years to discuss each other's works, debate matters, exchange views, explore venues, and experiment until they find their true voices and develop their own styles. We need this kind of programme in our society.

In the words of Ben Jonson, a writer is made as well as born.

LETTERS

No excuse for human rights violations

To the Editor:

Despite the fact that Dr. Waleed Sa'di's article "Universalism vs. individuality of human rights" (Jordan Times, Dec. 12, 1994) illustrates, as I read it, that stunning violations of human rights, are nothing but an indispensable outcome of the state-to-state variations in priorities and, more clearly, will to abide by international human rights instruments, I still believe the article tends to propose a very severe notion against victims of human rights. The conclusion I reached after reading the article is that if we are to blame developed countries for the economical gap, Third World countries' favourite excuse, then we are automatically blaming them for the mistreatment of citizens in Third World countries by their own governments.

Such a harsh reading, which is more transparent in the article than a reading between the lines, explicitly contradicts with the principles and instruments of international human rights. If we read these principles collectively, we arrive to justify any aspect of Dr. Sa'di's opinion and yet find ourselves incapable of reaching that end.

1. The Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, which is of a binding nature, calls on all states to protect civil and political rights to the same extent. That is mainly due to the fact that the issue of protecting these rights is by no means linked to the standard of development. A human being is free from torture, free to exercise his religious beliefs and protect his right to liberty; refraining from torture does not require an advanced standard of development. On the other hand, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights calls for the progressive implementation of the rights derived from its articles since the standard of development is vital to increasingly achieve protection of such rights.

2. Most rights in the universal declaration, or the magna carta of human rights as some human rights professors like to call it, are of a binding character. Such a character does not stem from the declaration itself, but rather from the customary international nature that grants them the obligatory status. Furthermore, one can present an argument that a state has a minimum latitude to violate any of the rights in the declaration since it acquires it as a "package" of binding nature, through the general acceptance and sense of obligation.

3. It is rather ironic that most governments proposing this blind linkage between the human rights of their citizens and development aid are an extension to liberty movements that once fought to regain the rights of their people from developed countries, without requesting a period to enable them to advance; or are military governments that usually declare NGOs' reports as untrue or reports of other states as unjustified intervention. But they never dispute the core issue here: because their theory is that no such violations exist.

4. Speaking of intervention, Professor Thomas Buergenthal, who taught at the George Washington University law school and a previous judge and president of the Inter American Court of Human Rights, often speaks of "the internationalisation of human rights, and the humanisation of international law." By saying this, he is declaring the widely recognised concept that the international community is allowed to intervene to sanction states violating the human rights of its people, not to mention foreigners.

In sum, the issue of human rights is not one of complaisance and subtle propaganda as it once was. I do share Dr. Sa'di's idea that a right to development does exist and that developed states need to cooperate. A very interesting question to investigate, in view of Dr. Sa'di's view and those I presented, is whether the like of the Jackson Vanik Amendment (the amendment to the 1974 U.S. Trade Act), according to which a state stipulates that the other improves its record of human rights in order to qualify for its aid or for the tariff's preferential treatment (e.g. U.S. v. China) should be universally applied. In my view this can be done, although it would cause more severe a problem than a simple nuisance to some Third World governments.

AYMAN H. ABDEL-KHALEQ,
LL.M. '94, George Washington University
P.O. Box 8624,
Amman 11121.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Hikmat Al Masri symbolised unity

By Samir Habashneh

LAST THURSDAY I was one of the group of Jordanian Parliament members attending the funeral of the late Hikmat Al Masri, a former House speaker and one of the most prominent Palestinian personalities.

The funeral, which was held in the West Bank town of Nablus, was marked by respect for Mr. Masri, leaving a very deep impression with me and all those present.

Although I never knew Mr. Masri personally, I felt it was not necessary for me, and others, to only pay respect to the great men with whom we had personal contact.

Respect is due to Mr. Masri for the great services he rendered to his countrymen on both banks of the River Jordan.

Those who knew Mr. Masri well knew his patriotism and his pan-Arab affiliation; the unanimous respect accorded to Mr. Masri by a

wide spectrum of intellectuals and politicians stands witness to the man's past achievements and his prominent role in society.

What is more important here is that Mr. Masri was one of the veteran Jordanian/Palestinian leaders who enthusiastically ally believed in achieving unity between the people on both sides of the River Jordan.

Joining hands with his colleagues on the two banks, Mr. Masri was able to make the dream come true in the form of full economic, social and cultural merger and helped fuse the political identity of the two people on the two banks of the eternal river.

His deeds were rightly considered as unique historic feats accomplished in cooperation with remarkable and distinguished personalities of the time.

Mr. Masri and his colleagues were not deterred by any barriers and did not search for excuses for divisions; they did not belong to

those who would use false patriotic to hide their selfish and narrow-minded objectives in order to achieve their goals.

One can rightly say that Mr. Masri and his colleagues succeeded in creating a type of unity that can serve as model for attempts at unity in the Arab World.

Indeed, the generation of these great men realised the importance of unity which serves as remedy for backwardness and as tool for Arab awakening and renaissance, and they achieved this unity despite the hardships and numerous obstacles.

Paying last respect to Mr. Masri and attending his funeral does not only evoke good memories about his great and distinguished deeds, but represents a real challenge presented to the new generation by Mr. Masri and his veteran group.

The challenge is whether we, the new generation, can pursue the goal of unity between Palestine and Jordan, whether we can work out an

appropriate formula for our union, which actually exists, whether we can transcend differences and can expose those who advocate divisions and their real unholy objectives, whether we can restore real unity having learned from our past errors.

These and many other challenges face us today and it is hoped that we can rise to the historic occasion.

At the funeral, we met with Palestinian leaders from Jerusalem, Hebron, Ramallah, the Jordan Valley, Toul Karim and Jenin and all I can say is that I have come back more fonder of the idea of genuine unity.

All those present advocate Jordanian-Palestinian unity and each one of them took advantage to expose his real feelings about unity.

The writer is a member of the Lower House of Parliament from Karak. The above article is translated from the Arabic daily Al Rai for which Mr. Habashneh contributes a weekly column.

Chechenya war could lead to return to dictatorship

By Dr. Mohydeen L. Quandour

RECENT EVENTS in the Russian Federation and the former Soviet republics are or should be a source of serious concern to the Russian Federation parliament. Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the Caucasus has seen three terrible wars. The fourth, possibly the most serious one, is now unfolding in Chechenya. There are several other territorial disputes with other smaller ethnic republics of the federation which may also end in serious conflict.

I wish to put this case to the parliament as conclusions to my observations of Russian and Soviet history, economic and ethnographic statistics and, most of all, in the interest of Russia and its long-term stability and growth.

Any keen student of Russian history might reach the same conclusions as I have simply that pluralism (i.e. multi-ethnic societies) has been responsible for the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The same destiny awaits a multi-national Russia.

It is an established scientific criterion that when ethnic minorities represent 10 per cent or less of the total population, they are gradually integrated into a single nation thus preserving the mother nation's ethnic-cultural distinction. By the end of the 19th century (1879 census) the non-Slavic peoples of Russia represented 10 per cent of the total population. This was still within the range of

ethno-political stability although imperial Russia's colonial policy had already begun to dilute its ethno-cultural character. By the 1989 census, the numerical strength of pure Russian peoples had doubled. But during the same period the numerical strength of the non-Russian people (Caucasians, Central Asians and Kazakhs) grew fourfold. Thus, by the census of 1989, non-Russians represented 20 per cent.

Furthermore, during the Soviet period, these ethnic minorities acquired their own institutions of national statehood. This policy was formulated by Stalin at the 4th Conference of the Communist Party held in June 1923. In addition to party political administrators in these non-Russian countries of the Soviet empire, he needed local "national administrative elites" who would be loyal to himself. The inevitable result was that these local "elites" laid claim to power and eventually to the notion of "sovereignty" in the post-totalitarian era.

The Soviet Union increasingly found itself compelled to subsidise and support the ever-growing non-Russian societies for economic growth and social services, thus negatively impacting its own economic development and achievements. But such assistance and subsidies from Moscow rarely reached those for whom they were intended. They managed to enrich and empower the local ethnic "elite" instead. Corruption became inevitable when these groups used

their personal interests with those in Moscow and social desperation developed even further. Everybody became dissatisfied. The ethnic Russians complained that the non-Russian minorities were being pampered at their expense. The ethnic minorities complained that their standard of living was meager and felt stranded at the outer edge of social welfare. Thus, the national economy continued its downwards slide at an ever-increasing pace. No amount of international borrowing or centralised economic planning could correct the long trend of waste and mismanagement which ensued and the USSR as we knew it disintegrated.

It is my contention that the multi-ethnic Russian Federation faces a similar fate unless some corrective measures are instituted. Why? Because the same cadre of "elite" bureaucrats occupy the same power seats and because like-minded management sits at the centre dishing out wasteful subsidies at these far flung inefficient economies. The syndrome of waste and corruption continues unabated.

If we take the north Caucasus specifically, it is supposed to be an economic region within the Stavropol territory, the Rostov Region and national republics. In the 1897 census, 1.3 million people who lived in the Russian empire belonged to nations of the north Caucasus. Today they number 4.1 million, according to the 1989 census. The divergence in ethnographic growth patterns is clearly

shown in a comparison of a 10-year period: the census of 1979 and 1989. The increase in the Russian ethnic group amounted to 5.6 per cent while the increase of the North Caucasian ethnic group amounted to 13 per cent. Chechens and up to 30 per cent (non-Chechens). The source for this data is the Russian Federal State Committee for Statistics. There are several other similar territories in the Russian Federation (Tuvva and Tyumen for example).

In the areas of the national republics in the north Caucasus, 33 per cent of the population are non-Russian. But what is more significant is a study of population densities in the north Caucasus as compared to "mother" Russia. In the north Caucasus this is 47 people per square kilometre while in Russia proper the average is 8.6 people per square kilometre. The population density for the strife areas of Chechenya and North Ossetia is 66 people and 79 people per square kilometre respectively. Rural population trends are increasing (42.7 per cent for the region compared to 26.4 per cent for Russia). This trend is historically a worrying phenomenon since rural overpopulation is often a prelude to civil strife. Furthermore, the predominantly Russian areas of Stavropol and Krasnodar are taking in refugees from the Caucasian republics which only adds to the tension. One does not need

(Continued on page 7)

The EDP blues

By Jean-Claude Elias

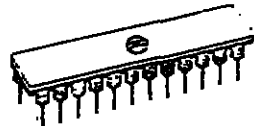
Home users of personal computers (PCs), whether beginners, amateurs, advanced users or professionals, have a very exclusive relationship with their machine. It's just between "it" and them. No one else is involved.

When everything works without a glitch, it's heaven on earth, and when they encounter any difficulty, they usually try to solve it by a personal effort. They browse through user manuals, follow the time-honoured "trial and error" procedure, or eventually call a friend who has been through the same problem before. Whatever the approach, it rarely involves the professional intervention of a data processing or computer expert, who would anyway charge high fees for his assistance.

At the other end of the users spectrum are large corporations. These organisations who now depend heavily on data processing for their regular operation, usually have resident computer specialists. Considering the number of machines that companies now use and the important number of related questions that require an urgent answer, this on a daily basis, hiring one or more computer graduates, as full-timers, becomes a vital need. Some large organisations even establish EDP (Electronic Data Processing) centres that are on a par with professional computer companies on both the technical level and the number of staff.

Somewhere between home users and large corporations, small-to-medium size companies are lost. With EDP needs certainly more important than those of home users, these organisations consider that their turnover does not justify hiring in-house computer professionals like large corporations do. The result, often, are daily problems that are either left unsolved

chip talk



or have to wait till a professional is called, from outside. Even a regular maintenance and support contract with a dedicated computer company would not give the same quality service as in-house specialists would, for on-call and preventive maintenance is rarely performed on a daily basis. When the needs reach a point where daily intervention is required, then hiring resident specialists become less expensive than an external contract. This is usually the case for any organisation that makes use of five computers or more, though the value and the importance of the work done is more significant than the absolute number of machines.

What often prevents small-to-medium size organisations from taking the important step of employing EDP experts is an old-fashioned attitude that makes them think the most important investment is buying the machines. This has proved to be totally wrong in modern business. What comes first in terms of data processing budget shares allocation is the technical support and staff training, then comes the software, whether ready-made or tailor-made, and last comes the equipment purchase. Unless such a change in mentality is undergone, small companies may never enjoy an efficient EDP operation.

Existence is a rabbit plucked from a hat

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Philosophy in this century has neither been wildly popular nor has it been seen as a great and glorious adventure. Rather, it has been regarded as the obscure preserve of a few sad devotees stricken with a passion for futile game-playing and endless word play. The simple truth is that, with the one brief exception of post-war Paris, philosophy has not been hip.

Latterly it has also suffered from being a spectacularly politically incorrect activity. More than any other discipline, philosophy is founded on an endless vista of Dead White European Males. Philosophy books seem to be either indistinguishable from maths books or so indulged in verbal analysis as to defy comprehension.

This is an unfair picture but it carries just enough truth to convince most people that philosophy is no longer what you want it to be — thrilling and accessible.

The current publishing sensation in Europe is Sophie's World, a novel by the Norwegian Jostein Gaarder. Aimed at teenagers, this is a long, educational fairy tale designed to teach them the entire history of Western philosophy. Sophie, the heroine, finds her life taken over by a man — Alberto Knox — who is driven by an inexplicable desire to make her learn philosophy. Sophie's constant complaint is that she is not taught anything like this at school. The dull

routine of her school work is contrasted with the wonders Knox has to impart.

The males may still be dead, white and European, but Gaarder's message reveals a virtuous Scandinavian glow when Alberto Knox apologises to Sophie for the complete lack of women in his history, explaining how oppressed they have been down the years, and when modern environmentalism is treated very much as a new and distinct philosophical development.

Gaarder skirts round all the really deep contemporary waters and simply allows his history to peter out into a general warm glow of environmentalism and political hope. For his purposes this does not matter. He simply wants to enthuse people; once inspired they can pick up where he leaves off. This has clearly worked in the sense that the success of the novel indicates a hunger for big ideas in acceptable packages.

In this new age where technological and cultural change is both rapid and total, people are both bored and anxious. This boredom stems from the fact that, after the cold war, although history may not be at an end, it is certainly slumbering. The anxiety arises from a fear of discontinuity as the past is being obliterated. Life may be comfortable, but it does not make sense. Then Gaarder appears with his strange novel offering big things to think about and the warm, agreeable assertion that the past is alive and well. Sophie's world is better than ours. It makes sense, it fills your mind.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- She did me brown. Lakad khada'atni.
- She made a laughing stock of me. Ja'alatni od'hooka.
- She broke my heart. Hat'tamat qalbi.
- She accused me of dishonesty. It'ahamatni bel-khiyana.
- She took the edge off me. Lakad kasarat shawkat.
- She left me in the lurch. Tarakatni fee warta.
- She threw mud at me. Lakad lat'takhat sum'ati.
- She racked my nerves. Arhaqat a saabi.
- She made light of my words. Istahanat bekalami.
- She had put my head off. Lakad atarat sawaabi.
- She fleeced me. Ibtazzat amwaali.
- She has cooked my goose. Lakad qadat alayya.
- She is the living image of her mother. Innaha sirro ommeha.
- I've lost the first round with her. Lakad khasirt al-jawla al-oala ma'aha.
- What an ill-luck! Ya lahu min huzz sa'ye.
- Neck or nothing was my last choice. Immal hayat wa-immal mawt kana khiyari al-akheer.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

- ★ FRIEND: "Does your wife clean your suit every day?"
- HUSBAND: "Never. She only cleans up the pockets."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ In Boston, a woman took revenge upon her husband in the following way:
- She filled his car's petrol tank with sand, cut the electric wires with a knife, wrote the words "Farewell to love" on the boot and then set the whole car on fire.

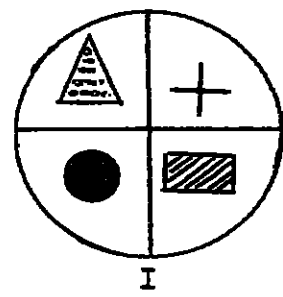
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ HE: "Your dress is very short, darling."
- SHE: "What for?"
- HE: "Your dress seems like a joke."
- SHE: "That's right. The shorter the joke is, the sweeter it is."

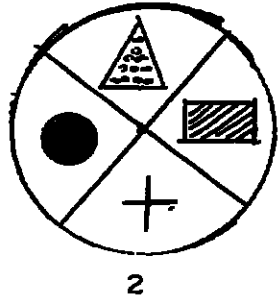
BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Whose voice was as loud as that of 50 men?
2. To what does sporrán refer?

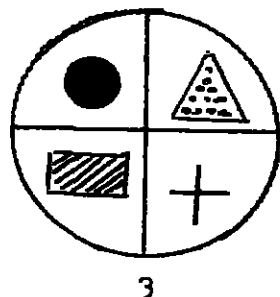
(B) Underline which two of these figures do not form a pair.



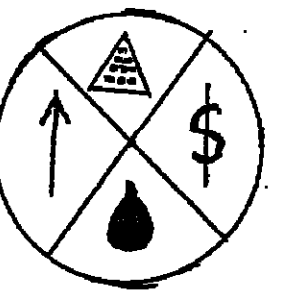
1



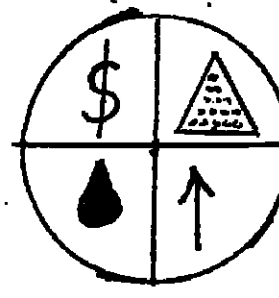
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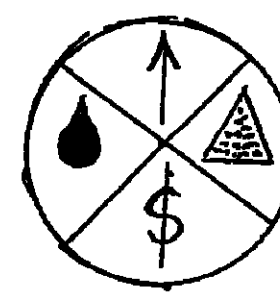
3



4



5



6

3. Is the Red Sea red?
4. What is the Agony Column?
5. Reclaimed or re woven wool is known by what name?

PARTY GAMES

SCROBBLE

If you have ever played Scrabble and enjoyed it, it is high time you learnt how to play Scrobble. Scrobble is very much like Scrabble, except that you don't need an expensive board and you can have more than two, three or four players.

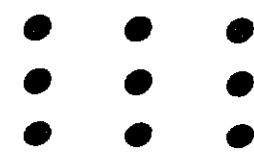
Begin by giving all the players a long word and getting them all to write it down in the middle of a piece of paper. Then give them five minutes in which to build up as many other words as they can from the original word. All the new words must in some way be related to the original word.

Here's an example using VEGETABLE as the starting word:

L
 CASSAVA
 P
 AUBERGINE
 T
 TURNIP
 H
 LEEK
 G
 GARLIC
 C
 CABBAGE
 U
 CUCUMBER
 E
 GARDENING
 C
 CELERY
 A
 VEGETABLE
 P
 PARSLEY
 O
 OKRA
 T
 TUBEROSE
 O
 HERB
 M
 CARROT
 N
 CAULIFLOWER
 Y
 ASPARAGUS
 W
 POTATO

PERPLEXITIES

- (A) Try to join the following dots to make four straight lines with angles provided that you should go on doing the job without lifting the pen from the paper.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 22

8:30 N.B.A.

8:30 The Road To Avonlea

Felicity's Challenge

Felicity tries to make up for the hurt she has caused to her friend Klimie.

9:10 Tequila And Bonetti

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Ordinary People

Friday, Dec. 23

7:30 Hollywood Stuntmakers

8:30 African Skies

Margo and Rory stumble upon a hidden band of desperate children orphaned by parents who have died of AIDS.

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blanche

Blanche finds her mission to ease the suffering of those that the great depression of the thirties has transformed into destitutes.

11:10 Never The Twain

Settled Out Of Court

Simon and Oliver fall out after they get snared in a trickery.

Saturday, Dec. 24

7:30 The Nanny

The Christmas Story

Fran, a feisty, opinionated New Yorker, upsets the cool serene household of a successful Broadway producer when she becomes nanny to his three children.

8:00 Innovation

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Where Have U Gone Billy Boy

An actor is taken into custody after being charged with murder.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — One Magic Christmas

Starring: Mary Steenburgen & Arthur Hill

With no money, a husband in the hospital, and a missing daughter, Ginny is at the end of her rope. That's until her very own guardian angel, Gideon, gives her a chance to rediscover the beauty of Christmas.

12:00 The Christmas Miracle

Christmas Carols

12:30 Major Dad

Major Moonlighting

John has no other choice but to get another job in order to stop a financial crisis.

1:00 Christmas ceremonies from the Vatican (midnight Mass from St. Peter's Cathedral-Rome) live!

Sunday, Dec. 25

7:30 Coach

8:00 SBest Night-Holy Night

A Christmas Concert

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Galactica

Space Ball

Two air-pilots are exiled in space after being deprived of needed energy and oxygen.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Little Match Girl

On Christmas Eve, a little girl plays a major role in stopping a greedy rich man from carrying out a malicious scheme.

12:00 The Upper Hand

Christmas Requiem

Laura disguises in black glasses and a hat while trying to find out a secret about her brother, Charlie.

Monday, Dec. 26

7:30 Black Beauty

8:00 Boogies Diver

Mr. July

After he leaves his job to work in Hollywood, Gibson comes back again as his plans backfire.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Grushko

Tuesday, Dec. 27

7:30 Practical Guide To The Universe

8:00 F.B.I. The Untold Stories

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:15 Documentary — The Deep Probe

10:00 News In English

10:20 First Circle

11:10 The Piglet Files

Fat Exorcism

Peter Chapman's house is made of wood. It was a safe house to hide a Russian defector. Unfortunately, it is not as safe as they think.

Wednesday, Dec. 28

7:30 Home Improvement

8:00 Life In The Freezer

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Law And Order

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prison

10:40 Snowy River

11:10 Coming Of Age

The father refuses to stay with his daughters after he decides to get married.

Greenland relaunches Santa with humanitarian role

By Christopher Follett
Reuter

COPENHAGEN — Ice-bound Greenland is relaunching Santa Claus as a humanitarian crusader for the world's deprived children.

The aim is partly to underline Greenland's claim as the true home of Father Christmas and partly to boost the island's tourist trade.

"Greenland's Father Christmas has an image problem," said Jens Veino, chairman of the Santa Claus of Greenland Foundation. "We have to make him and his homeland better known to the world outside."

"We must not forget Father Christmas is primarily associated with being good to children, so we want our Santa to sup-

port charities for sick, handicapped and homeless children all over the world," he said.

The foundation, studying a new strategy for re-vamping Santa with an array of Disney-style marketing techniques, aims to collect over 30 million crowns (\$8 million) a year for children's charities.

The idea would be to link the familiar red-robed figure with Greenland by stressing the nearby North Pole as his only home and blending the Santa theme with Eskimo culture and ice-bound landscapes to attract tourists.

Greenland, an Arctic province of Denmark, insists it is the only true home of Santa Claus and its Santa Post Office answers 125,000 letters a year from children all over

the world who write to Father Christmas C/O North Pole, Greenland.

But Finnish Lapland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland also claim to be the true land of Father Christmas and tempers can run high on the issue among normally peaceful Nordic people.

The Finns, who have a commercially successful Arctic Circle Centre for their Santa or "Joulupukki" near the city of Rovaniemi, make the biggest pitch for the Santa tourist trade, refusing to recognise Greenland's claim.

With a recession-ridden economy suffering from declining fish catches, inaccessible Greenland needs to find new sources of income but has been losing ground to Finland in the lucrative and competitive Santa Claus tour-

ism trade.

So fierce is the dispute over Santa that it once surfaced at a summit meeting of Nordic prime ministers.

Finland's Santa was banned for years from attending the annual Father Christmas World Congress traditionally held in Copenhagen in sweltering July heat.

"The Finns' Santa is super-commercial. We want Greenland's Santa to have a more charitable profile and actually do good things for children," Mr. Veino said.

"Proper, professional marketing of Santa could bring more tourists to the world's largest island where they could visit him in his natural abode," he said.

Backed by four million crowns (\$666,000) in

annual subsidies from Greenland's home rule government, the Santa Foundation runs a yuletide theme park with a Santa workshop, a post office and souvenir shops in a disused boatyard in Nuuk, the capital.

The Santa Centre has been struggling since its start, failing to bring in the \$20 million annual tourism earnings targeted when it was launched in 1990. Mr. Veino declined to give a figure for the centre's revenue.

It is at present partly closed as it undergoes a winter re-structuring of its facilities which also include Eskimo handicraft shops, a Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer Restaurant and a 5.5 metre high Santa's letterbox.

Some 15,000 people, mostly locals, visit Santa's

workshop each year.

The number of foreign tourists to Greenland, inhabited by 55,000 Inuit Eskimos, has doubled this year to some 8,000. Most come between May and September when weather conditions are less severe.

"If the Greenland Christmas project is really going to flourish, we'll have to make our Santa into a well-known media figure, like a character in a Disney cartoon film, and market a whole range of Santa-related products," Mr. Veino said.

He said his foundation was looking for sponsors or partners to fund Christmas cartoon films featuring Greenland's Santa, accompanied by books, cards, stickers and commercial products featuring a special Santa trademark or symbol.



The folklore behind Santa, yule logs and mistletoe

NEW YORK (AP) — Ever wonder why Santa Claus chooses the chimney instead of the door? And what's the myth behind mistletoe, anyway?

For answers, look to the folklore of ancient cultures. When the days grew shorter under winter's chilly grip, secular ceremonies emphasised fire and light. Over time, they became associated with the religious themes of Christmas.

"So many early cultures had festivities surrounding the winter solstice of light overcoming darkness," said Dr. Donald Dossey, author of the book *Holiday Folklore, Phobias and Fun*.

Bonfires were a universal way to combat the darkness. Norsemen called their winter festival Yuletide, and they burned yule logs.

"They helped good spirits see their way and scared away the evil. Can-

dles and lights on trees today are really symbols of those early bonfires," said Dossey, a psychologist from Asheville, North Carolina.

The prevalence of winter festivals helps explain why Dec. 25 was chosen as Christmas Day. Some scholars say Jesus Christ was actually born in the spring, when shepherds tended their flocks. But the Catholic Church merged older customs into

the religious events of Christmas.

"When Christianity began less than 2,000 years ago, it had no history. The so-called pagans were diehards. They weren't going to give up their practices. So it was a smart political move to infuse these festivities with Christian significance," Dossey said.

One of several myths with German roots involves the goddess Hertha, who was believed

to follow smoke down to a fire, determine who was good or bad and then dispense gifts. So this female figure, whose name is the basis for the word hearth, was a precursor of Santa Claus.

Then there's mistletoe, a parasite that grows on fir trees. The Druids, a Celtic religious order of priests and soothsayers, believed it was a symbol of peace for a bird called the mistle thrush to carry the plant in its claws.

They believed a sprig of mistle thrush toe, or mistletoe, could make warriors drop their weapons and hug each other. The kissing custom evolved from that.

If you hang a stocking up on Christmas Eve, thank St. Nicholas, a 4th century figure and another early form of Santa Claus. St. Nick provided for the three daughters of a nobleman, placing gold by their beds for their wed-

ding dowries. But one time he slipped, and gold fell into a stocking hung up to dry.

Santa Claus came in all sorts of variations, and even used a donkey and wagon in the earliest legends. He was first depicted as a merry, curplent figure in Clement Clark Moore's 1822 poem *A Visit From St. Nicholas*.

Santa's modern image originates with Thomas Nast, a German immig-

rant whose editorial cartoons pictured Santa in red, white and blue as a way to cheer Union soldiers during the American Civil War.

"None of this takes away from the true spirit and intent of all of our ancestors," Dossey said. "That was giving thanks, being joyful that light can overcome darkness, evil can overcome by good, there can be peace on earth."

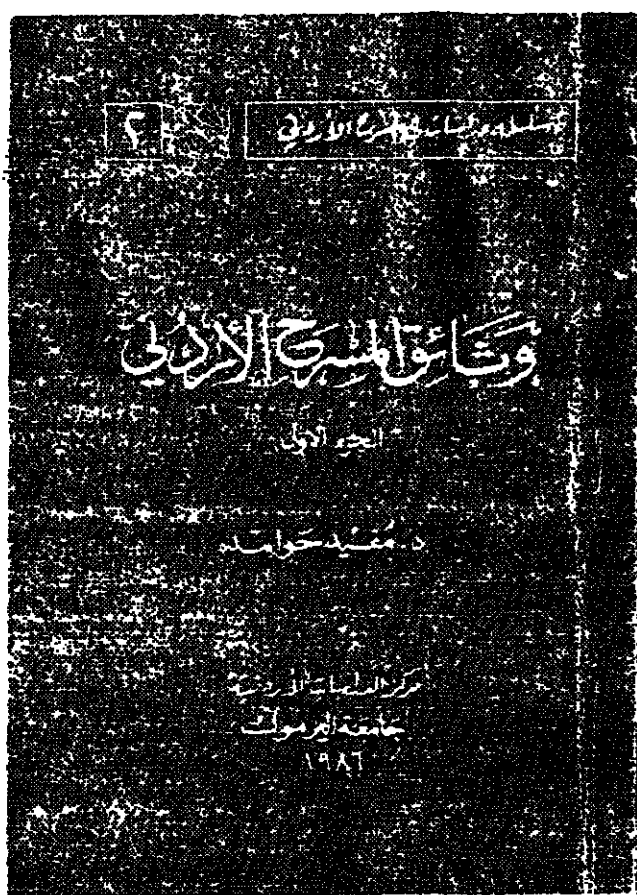
A long way to go

Series Of Studies In Jordanian Theatre

By Mufeed Hawamdeh (Ph.D)

Drama in Jordan is a relatively new cultural phenomenon which did not reach the level of drama in the West. It needs a long way to go to achieve that level, yet there are continuous efforts to develop it to be better. The lack of theatrical criticism and archiving is part of the problem because qualified criticism adds to the quality of the text and theatrical show and archiving denotes the progress or retreating of theatrical works within a certain period of time. Mufeed Hawamdeh who is an associate professor of English at Yarmouk University took upon himself the task of promoting both criticism and archiving of Jordanian theatre. He started since 1984 a series of studies about theatre in Jordan for Jordanian Studies Centre at Yarmouk University that deals with playwrights, directors and actors. He has published five books so far and the rest will follow. The first book of this series is a critical study of local theatre, its link with Arabic theatre in general and evaluation as to world theatre. In this book he does not just point out the problems facing the theatrical movement but goes on to describe appropriate solutions to those problems. His experience in Shakespearean theatre in particular and in the advanced Western theatre in general qualifies him to carry on this burden. It contains four chapters that deal with the problem of theatre in the Arab World, a study in regard to theatre from a folkloric perspective, a description of the new movement in experimental theatre and the contribution of Yarmouk University in theatrical labs. It also includes three of the plays enacted in 1984.

The second, the third and the fourth he designated documenting the Jordanian theatre. "This book strives for accomplishing Jordanian theatre encyclopedia planned to embrace the overall theatrical activity in Jordan since the dawn of this century," Hawamdeh says and goes on to say in his introduction: "It contains documents and information which the researcher believes they are sufficient and precise about more than a hundred theatrical shows enacted on Jordanian theatre. Others are still subject to research and investigation that shall be published in the relevant data from their sources are available." The names of plays are arranged alphabetically to facilitate study. The book contains also photographs of stickers, placards and tickets which Hawamdeh considers an important wealth as the pictures of placards and stickers register many and varied styles of designs and to have them in the book enables designers to view them in a comparable, comprehensive frame "so as to incite people in the theatre to take interest in this documentary aspect in order to make them seek precision as to the information included in their placards to facilitate future research," as Hawamdeh puts it. Because there does not exist a concrete source comprising the primary information about theatrical work and literature that students may rely on in this vital sphere of the national culture, Hawamdeh has decided to take this hard path and to start from zero by accumulating texts and documents relating to the national theatre. The fifth book *Efforts Of Jordanian Theatre* — play-identifying people in the Jordanian theatre — playwrights, directors, actors and technicians. The book arranges their names in alphabetical order and comprises a precise account of their participations. Hawamdeh's insight and knowledge about theatre is broad and deep enabling him to correctly trail the



positive or the negative sides of both the text and the show, the ins and outs of the world of theatre. His language is an academic language but devoid of rigidity that usually accompanies such researches.

Muhammad Daoud Tahboub

A great persuader

Freya Stark In The Levant

By Malise Ruthven

Garnet Publishing, Reading, England 1994, £20

Freya Stark was a great traveller and almost always took her camera, usually a Leica III, with her. Her curiosity about people and places and sense of style were reflected in her photography as well as in her prose. She grouped her subjects, whether human or topographical, in the most seemingly arrangement. She also had, as Malise Ruthven says in his excellent introduction, "the ability to talk people into letting her photograph them." She was a great persuader, and nobody really minded being persuaded by her cheerful persistence.

Freya Stark bequeathed her huge collection of some 50,000 photographs to the Middle East Centre at St. Antony's College, Oxford. From these Ruthven has chosen a representative selection, grouped by countries — Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine. That leaves Persia, Iraq, Turkey, Arabia and Yemen, where so much of her long career lay, still, it must be hoped, to come. But this handsome volume gives a taste of the rich archive which records a world that has been greatly changed, and much of it destroyed, by half a century of war, civil strife, tourism and progress — Middle East International.

E.C. Hodgkin

Purification of the soul

Torture And Modernity: Self, Society And State In Modern Iran

By Darius M. Rejali

Westview Press, Oxford, England 1994, £26.50/£13.50 (pb)

There is nothing rare, Western, Muslim or specifically modern about torture, as we should hardly need reminding. This ambitious book, explains Darius Rejali, lecturer in political philosophy at Reed College in the U.S., is about torturers and the world they live in, focusing on shifting practices of torture and the process of modernisation in Iran. It is a study written in the shadow of Michel Foucault, though not uncritically.

The author of this original and disturbing book has made a serious investigation of the practice of torture in modern Iran and how it has evolved. It contains a remarkable series of old photographs in an appendix not added for voyeuristic reasons but because they add substantially to the points made in the main text.

The elaborate ceremonial public displays of torture under the Qajars evolved into a private business, involving the victim and one or two specialists, in Savak's buildings or in basements of prisons. The difference, judges Rejali, is that this "is clinical, not ritual, torture. The torturer operates on his patient. His methods and instruments are drawn from medicine, engineering, psychology and physiology." Not for nothing did the security police under the late shah claim to have a higher number of PhD's than any other branch of government in Iran.

Among the many tortured under the shah's regime were the famous playwright Gholam Husayn Saedi and novelist Reza Baraheni. The experience marked their work, with Baraheni, for example, maintaining (in *The Crowned Cannibals*) that torture is the extension of sexual repression in Iranian society.

There are many elements in contemporary Iran common to other totalitarian states. Discipline and obedience of citizens are key goals of the system. The ideal citizen in the Islamic Republic, in theory at least, acts as "the eyes and ears of the state," as model Soviet children in the Stalin era were meant to do in the USSR.

Rejali does stress that concern with moral corruption represents an important continuity between the shah's regime and that of the clergy currently ruling Iran. Yet there are surprising limits placed on discussion of the wider context of Iranian culture itself. The traditional flagellation and other self-tortures inflicted by Shiite men willingly on themselves at Muharram, in grisly public displays of their devotion, continued until outlawed under Reza Shah.

Again, the cultural aspect is very relevant in education. A recent study by Rasool Nafisi (Iran: Political Culture in the Islamic Republic, Routledge 1993) elaborates the hold of the mullahs through school textbooks, gloomy and doctrinaire, with death and martyrdom-prominent. He states: "The clergy, aware of the numbing effects of death, and the fear and fascination evinced by martyrdom, uses this psychological game quite effectively. In this context, death becomes the rule, while life, as stated frequently by the clergy, is just a transitory stage, meant for purification of the soul."

Much of Rejali's book tests current Western theories about the reemergence and spread of torture in recent decades against the experience of modern

BOOK REVIEW

Iran. In so doing, he reveals much about Iran, as well as ideas about torture and crime and punishment in society — Middle East International.

Anthony Hyman

Nationalist endeavours

Syria's Quest For Independence 1939-1945

By Salma Mardam Bey

Garnet Publishing, Reading, England 1994, £30

The early years of Syria's modern history have been of renewed interest as new sources have become available. The latest contribution is Salma Mardam Bey's book in which she uses her collection of her father's papers to give a detailed account of relations between Syrian nationalist leaders and Britain and France in the years leading up to the French withdrawal in 1945.

Jamil Mardam Bey was one of the leading figures in the struggle for Syrian independence. He began his political activities in 1911 when he joined an Arab anti-Ottoman secret society in Paris and was appointed deputy foreign minister in King Faisal's short-lived Kingdom in 1920. Under the Mandate he took a prominent role in negotiating Syria's independence from France and led the country to independence as foreign minister and acting prime minister in 1945. He took up the premiership again in 1946 but resigned two years later and left Syria for Cairo. Thereafter he took more detached view of events in his homeland, formally announcing his retirement from public life in 1954. He died in 1960.

His daughter uses British Foreign Office and French Foreign Ministry documents as well as collections of private papers (both those belonging to her father and to the late Sir Edward Spears) to detail the twists and turns of Franco-Syrian relations. These events have been outlined by previous researchers but the addition of Mardam's papers gives the Syrian perspective on events as well as providing new details of the negotiating strategies.

The author takes a firmly nationalist perspective, claiming that "Syria's example was an inspiration to others under foreign rule." She unreservedly backs Jamil Mardam's complaint, namely that the French under Charles De Gaulle and General Beynet were set on provoking confrontation while the nationalists were eager to avoid a clash. She also argues that Britain should not receive credit for ousting the French. She maintains that British policy was confused, with Churchill reprimanding Spears for his active anti-French stance. Furthermore, London, already dependent on Washington, was concerned to get American approval before sending in troops to halt the French assault on Damascus.

Salma Mardam's book provides much new material on early modern Syrian history and is a valuable addition to the literature on the topic. It is now to be hoped that she will use her father's papers to shed more light on the post-1945 period when Jamil Mardam played a central role as the new state struggled to find its feet in a hostile international environment — Middle East International.

Andrew Rathmell

Atlanta Olympics

IOC limits Jordan's delegation to 6 athletes

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The number of Jordanian athletes who will represent the Kingdom at the 1996 Olympic Games has been narrowed down to only six and even they will have to attend a six month training programme to qualify for the event.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Mouaffaq Al Fawwaz, the secretary-general of the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC), expressed his dissatisfaction at the way current Olympics officials were violating the spirit of the Olympic charter by placing varied limitations that would hinder the participation of developing countries.

"This attitude is violating the universality of the games. The Olympics are meant to bring together athletes from all over the world. To break cultural barriers, and create more understanding between different nations" he noted.

Dr. Fawwaz and Minister of Youth Fawwaz Abul Ghanam have just returned from Atlanta after representing Jordan at the

general assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) where over 1,000 delegates from 196 countries attended the meetings. They also toured the site of the Games and attended meetings of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has already begun its countdown for the Games. Final preparations for venues, security and a host of other issues are being finalised. In addition, the maximum number of athletes has been set at 10,000, thus placing a clear limitation on the number of athletes from each country.

Dr. Fawwaz said that developing countries whose athletes do not sometimes meet eligibility requirements because of their records were given the chance to participate with six athletes provided they represent different sports. However the IOC has given these countries a chance to upgrade their standards by providing their top six athletes with six-month training programmes whose cost would be totally covered by the

international body.

The IOC will cover expenses of lodging and participation of six athletes and two administrators at the Games. It will also raise its annual grant to the national Olympic committees. The JOC will receive \$15,000, in addition to \$36,000 for coaching programmes.

Dr. Fawwaz said that the JOC should ensure that the most promising athletes will represent the Kingdom and that respective sports federations will be asked very soon to make their choices so that athletes will have sufficient time to prepare.

"We have to make sure that we send the very best and qualified athletes to the IOC training programmes and then decide who will be eligible to go," Dr. Fawwaz added.

Dr. Fawwaz said that the OCA meetings concentrated on the doping issue especially after 11 members of the Chinese delegation at the Asian Games recently tested positive and were suspended.

Jordan had only one such case two years ago when a weightlifter tested positive and was later suspended. The exact details of the case were not disclosed but it later turned out that the athlete was given a muscle strengthening substance by his coach.

The Atlanta Olympics will be the fifth time Jordan takes part in the Summer Games, after taking part in the previous four events held in Barcelona, Seoul, Los Angeles and Moscow.

WOMEN'S TENNIS 1994

Navratilova takes her final bow; Spanish players enjoy marvellous season

PARIS (AFP) — From the start Martina Navratilova was always going to be the major story in women's tennis in 1994.

The Czech-born American, facing a 38th birthday in October and having dominated the game for more than two decades, made it clear in January that she intended to retire at the end of the year — come what May.

Her final season reaped one more title, a victory at the Paris Indoor Open in February, to swell her astonishing record total of career singles wins to 167, but her bid for a tenth Wimbledon crown just failed.

Playing in her 22nd consecutive campaign at the All England Club, Navratilova surged through to the final, but hopes of a fairy tale ending were thwarted when she lost to surprise opponent Conchita Martinez. The Spaniard, who had also beaten Navratilova in the Italian Open final two months earlier, scored a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win.

Navratilova, who won 55 Grand Slam titles and who reigned as world number-one for a record 332 consecutive weeks back in 1982, was still ranked eighth when she made an emotional farewell at the WTA's end-of-season Championships at Madison Square Garden where she was beaten in the first round by eventual winner Gabriela Sabatini.

Steffi Graf, still carrying the credibility of women's tennis largely single-handed after the stabbing on court of arch-rival Monica Seles in Hamburg in April 1993, started the year like an express train.

With no sign of Seles returning, Graf didn't drop a set and lost only 28 games as she raced to her fourth Australian Open title and she continued to sweep all before her until she was beaten by a "new-look" Mary Pierce in the semi-finals at the French Open.

That was when things began to go wrong.

A shock first-round defeat at Wimbledon against the experienced American Lori McNeil was followed by a decision to skip the Federation Cup finals in Frankfurt, and although the German player stormed back to win San Diego in August by out-playing major rival Arantxa Sanchez 6-2, 6-1 — the Spaniard got her own back by beating Graf in the final at the United States Open the following month.

For the rest of the season Graf struggled. Back and foot injuries aggravated her bid to recapture her form and she lost again to Pierce in the semi-finals at the WTA Championships.

Spanish players enjoyed a marvellous season. Apart from winning the French Open, Wimbledon and the United States Open between them, Sanchez and Martinez joined forces to retain the Federation Cup — beating the United States 3-0 in the final inside Frankfurt's Waldstadion without dropping a set.

With Seles absent, Navratilova retiring and Graf showing signs of wear and tear, the season was marked by a search for new stars.

The big-hitting, 15-year-old Pierce who had separated from her controversial and often violent father twelve

months before, looked as though she might fit the bill.

Formerly tense and unsmiling, the Canadian-born French number-one turned up at Roland Garros with new American coach Nick Bollettieri looking a completely different player.

Relaxed and happy, and clearly enjoying her training sessions and new-found popularity with the French crowds, Pierce stormed through the French Open draw dropping only six games to reach a semi-final showdown with Graf.

She didn't stop there. She hammered out a 6-2, 6-2 win against the world number-one and would probably have done the same against Sanchez in the final had rain not forced the match to be postponed for 24 hours. As it was Pierce, who led 3-1 in the first set, was eventually beaten 4-6, 4-6.

Three weeks later Pierce made a tearful exit from Wimbledon without hitting a ball after coming under relentless pressure from Britain's tabloid newspapers eager to exploit her father's criminal past.

Reports that one of the newspapers was planning to smuggle the father, a convicted bank robber who was banned from attending all tournaments after being ejected from the 1993 French Open, into the All England Club proved to be the final straw. Pierce withdrew and went into hiding with her French mother Yvonne.

Many top players were openly sceptical about Pierce's motives and Billie Jean King led an ugly slur campaign by openly accusing the teenager of withdrawing

because she couldn't play on grass.

There were fears for the health of young players joining the tour too soon, prompted by the shock decline of Olympic champion Jennifer Capriati.

Capriati, who had joined the tour as a 14-year-old, stopped playing after losing in the first round of the United States Open but reports filtered through that things were not what they should be. First the 18-year-old American was arrested for shoplifting and then on drugs charges.

Capriati's problems prompted the WTA to announce the raising of the age limit for players to join the tour. From 1995, players will only be allowed to play on the tour on an unrestricted basis when they are 18.

The deadline for the rule-change prompted two 14-year-olds to make their professional debuts.

Switzerland's Martina Hingis, twice the French Open junior champion, joined the tour at Zurich in October and by the end of the season she had already risen to 87th in the rankings.

The other newcomer was 6ft 2in American Venus Williams who had apparently turned professional against the wishes of her parents.

Williams, brought up in a tough Los Angeles ghetto and with an equally promising younger sister Serena in the pipeline, hadn't played a tournament since she was 11 years old. But she exploded on the scene in Oakland in November by beating the experienced 25-year-old Shaun Stafford in the first round and then led Sanchez 6-2, 3-1 in the second, before losing concentration and eleven games in a row.

Jana Novotna, who had

made the headlines in 1993 by weeping on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent after losing the Wimbledon final, nursed a recurring shoulder injury for much of the season. But the Czech player finished fourth in the rankings after an excellent late season in which she won three straight tournaments (Essen, Leipzig and Brighton) and reached the quarter-finals at the WTA Championships.

One of the year's brightest prospects was the powerful 6ft 2in, 18-year-old American Lindsay Davenport — a quarter-finalist at Wimbledon and finalist at the ATP Championships. Davenport, who also led the United States to the Federation Cup final, had put her education first and graduated from Murrieta Valley High School to be a late-starter in professional tennis in February 1993. But she made up for lost time and finished the season in sixth place in the rankings.

Japan also had a "top-ten" player in Kimiko Date who completed another successful season at world number-nine. Date reached the semi-finals at the ATP Championships, which provided the biggest surprise and probably most popular winner of the season in Gabriela Sabatini.

The glamorous 24-year-old South American, written off as an "also-ran" after another winless year, brought the curtain down with a stunning victory at Madison Square Garden. It was Sabatini's first victory on the tour since her triumph at the Italian Open in May 1992.

The season also saw the retirement of Tracy Austin. The 31-year-old, who became the youngest player to win the United States Open in 1979 as a 16-year-old before being plagued by injuries.

BITS & PIECES

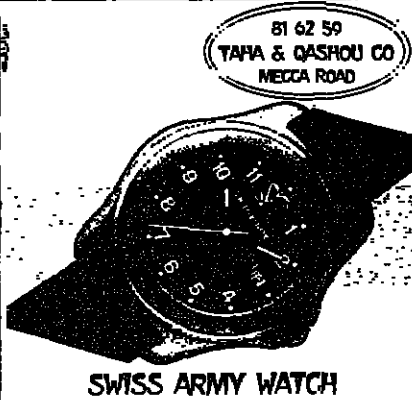
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Saturday 24th, December, Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Crib Service for Children.
11:15 p.m. Midnight Mass.
Sunday 25th, December, Christmas Day.
11:00 a.m. Joint English and Arabic Eucharist.
AQABA
At the Missions to Seamen Church.
Telephone 318416/7.
Saturday 24th, December, Christmas Eve
11:30 p.m. Midnight Mass.
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Invitation For Bids Mafraq Water System Rehabilitation Project Contracts Central No. 161/94 (Modified)

- The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing/Government Tenders Directorate, invites experienced foreign contractors from countries which meet the eligibility criteria of the European Investment Bank and local contractors who have been prequalified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as First Grade in Water and Sewerage, or a joint venture between eligible foreign and local contractors to submit their offers for the supply, delivery and construction of Mafraq Water Distribution System. Foreign contractors are strongly encouraged to joint venture or associate with the above graded local contractors.
- The project is partially financed by (EIB).
- The project consists of the supply and installation of water supply pipes with diameter varying from 19mm to 400mm, total length about 181 km.
- Tender documents are available and may be examined and purchased the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Amman: P.O. Box 1228 Tel. (+) 962 6 607 481, Fax (+) 962 6 606 751.
- The non-refundable fee for each set of tender documents will be JD 500.
- The latest date set for the purchase of tender documents by the eligible bidders is January 23rd, 1995.
- A prebid conference will be held at the Water Authority's main offices in Amman at 900 hour, Jordan local time, on Monday 23rd January 1995.
- Bids are due not later than 1200 hours, Jordan Local Time, on Saturday, February 18th, 1995, to the office of the Government Tenders Directorate.

Eng. George Haddad
Chairman/Central Tenders Committee
General Director/Government Tenders Directorate

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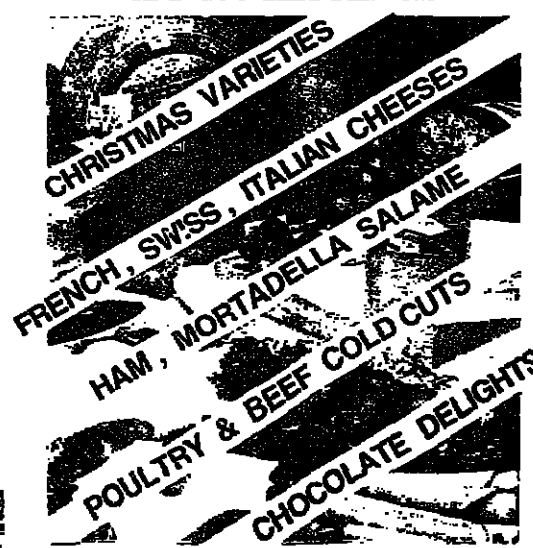
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SIMPLE ARITHMETIC

North-South vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 9 6 5 3
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 7 4 3
♣ 5 2
WEST
♠ K J 8 2
♥ 8 6
♦ 10 8 6
♣ 10 9 8
EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ Q J 10 9 4
♦ Q 5
♣ 7 6 4 3
SOUTH
♠ A Q 10
♥ 8 3
♦ A J 9 2
♣ A K Q J

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 1 Pass
3 NT Pass 1 Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♠
Reaching the right contract is only part of the battle. To complete the victory you have to fulfill the contract.

South's hand is the type that gives most players grey hairs — there's no "right" bid. We would probably ignore the weak doubleton in hearts and open two no trump (21-22 points), but we have no quarrel with South's method of handling the problem. That's not the case

with the play.
Declarer won the opening lead perfectly, entered dummy with the king of hearts and finessed the ten of spades. West won with the jack and returned a club. Declarer now crossed to the table with the remaining high heart and tried another spade finesse. When that, too, lost, there were no more than eight tricks to be had.
Declarer was unlucky to find both spade honors wrong — East was a 2-to-1 favorite to hold one. And yes, double dummy the hand can be made by stripping West of exit cards in hearts and clubs before taking the first spade finesse. But there is a sure-trick line for the contract — the ninth trick is right under your nose.
The key card is dummy's nine of spades. That can be established by force. After winning the first trick, declarer should simply play the ace and queen of spades. When declarer regains the lead, the ten of spades forces out the jack and the nine is high, while there is at least one heart entry in dummy. In all, declarer collects two spade tricks, two hearts, at least one diamond and four clubs. That's nine tricks any way you count them.

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	Presents: A world famed movie picture worth watching: THE FLINTSTONES Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Michel York/Jennifer O'Neill — In DISCRETION ASSURED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' Robin Williams — In Mrs. Doubtfire Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Harrison Ford — In The Fugitive Shows: 3:15, 5:00	will soon present: Hajjusa Hijazin (SUM'AA) In the satirical political comedy: Hi Citizen	Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday in English Sundays December 11, 18, only.

Chechnya's fate could see reversal of fortunes

(Continued from page 6)

expertise to forecast that the largest mass of unemployed will be concentrated in the north Caucasus in the foreseeable future. We could logically conclude, therefore, that the conflicts in the north Caucasus have been and will continue to be a struggle for land. What we expect to see is a continuing aggravation of the ethno-demographic pressures in the north Caucasus causing ever increasingly tensions and consternation to the parliament of all Russia. Caucasian strife has proven difficult to resolve. They do not allow for formulation of traditional solutions. Caucasian regional conflicts will inevitably lead to destabilisation of federal policies, be they economic or political.

What can Russia do if some or all of these observations prove true? I do not propose a total severance of the Caucasian republics and regions from Russia. There are positive aspects resulting from a long historic association. I do not propose that Russia sit back and passively watch these conflicts develop. What I propose is a new approach to the north Caucasus which takes into account the ethno-demographic realities, an approach which allows them maximum economic and political independence. Russia could play a constructive part in creating a north Caucasian economic/political federation. On their own, the five existing small republics have no economic or political muscle to contribute constructively to the Russian Federation. On the contrary, they represent an ongoing and increasing drain on its federal budget. There are no real long-term advantages for Russia to hold the north Caucasian republics under central control.

The strategic considerations of the cold war era are no longer paramount. As an independent economic entity, with the pooling of resources and industrial development, with total flexibility to create such lucrative industries as tourism with direct foreign investments (without the discouraging centralised bureaucratic paper-chase in Moscow) these multi-ethnic republics could quickly become self-sufficient and contribute to a healthier Russian Federation. They could also improve the living standards of their own people and address the crippling unemployment looming in the horizon.

Gradual change will inevitably allow a new cadre of management to exercise true economic reform. Such change can be peaceful and constructive under democratic procedures. All the north Caucasian republics have elected governments and practise democratic elections. The challenges ahead should produce the kind of leadership required to accomplish these changes in an open society. What is mandatory is wise direction, legal framework and proper guidelines from the federal parliament.

What are the alternatives? The Chechnya war and other similar conflicts will inevitably lead to emergency autocratic measures leading to abolition of elections and the elimination of democratic and "reform" institutions. The worst possible outcome would be a return to dictatorship.

The writer, who just finished a trilogy "Kavkas," published in Russia, is a management consultant with business links to Russia and the Caucasus countries. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Exhibit to acquaint West with modern Islamic culture

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — For those living amidst Jordan's small, cozy and comfortably apolitical art scene, the placid stillness of an exhibition hall would perhaps seem an unlikely launching pad for crusades on behalf of Third World social causes.

During this century, both native and colonial governments in the Third World have seen the works of some artists as instigating enough to punish them with jail or worse. But in this day of satellite TV dishes, laserdisk and other high-velocity media, the painter's canvas would seem to come in a slight second.

This viewpoint is not being shared by some Arab intellectuals living in the West. Less than a year after a group of Arab-American artists launched the 70-artist mega-exhibit "Forces of Change" in Washington, D.C., in an effort to confront western stereotypes about the lives of Middle Eastern women, an art institute in Kassel, Germany, is gearing up to launch an even more ambitious project in a similar vein. Entitled "Encountering the Contemporary Islamic Culture," it aims to acquaint Europeans with the vast complexities of modern Islamic culture currently hidden behind "the news they hear daily about fundamentalists," project director Hamdi Itar told the Jordan Times.

"We are in constant touch now with 45 embassies in Bonn" as part of preparations for the exhibit, says the bespectacled Egyptian, who is director of Kassel University's Institute for Studies of

the Modern Arts. He was in Amman on Thursday to meet with Jordan's artists and inform them about the exhibit, as well as encourage their participation in it.

The institute's attempt to leap over the iron-plated walls of prejudice standing unbudged between East and West, Dr. Itar told the Jordan Times, comes out of a firm conviction that "through culture you can build a bridge for dialogue."

The scale of the exhibit's theme and size is impressive as well. The target is to exhibit roughly 400 works by 100 artists from 28 nations throughout Asia and Africa. Such ambitious East-West cultural bridging projects often create quite a splash, with numerous press releases commending the brave vision of their initiators. Then, after the initial temporary enthusiasm, the major body of western public opinion always seems to remain firmly cemented in place.

Dr. Itar said he had no illusions that the exhibit would be an earthshaker, even though the institute has spent over two years planning and organising for it.

"We have been exerting such efforts at the institute for 20 years," he said. "We know very well that it would be an illusion to think we can change everything in a short time — but we can be sure the exhibit will give people who see it something to think about."

Ironically enough, when scholars from both East and West gather for a seminar the institute will stage alongside the exhibit when it opens in August 1995, it may come to prove it is not only western

intellectuals who have a hazy concept of what defines modern Islamic culture and art, but those in the Islamic World as well.

If things go as planned, the seminar will raise a host of difficult questions about what defines and typifies modern Islamic art as it now exists among the bewilderingly vast and diverse array of peoples and countries who make up the Muslim "ummah."

For instance, an institute brochure which outlines the proposed framework of debate for the seminar asks what portion of what these countries' artists convey through sculpture and canvas is rooted in original Islamic values, and how much is actually western styles and concepts inherited from decades and centuries of European colonial rule? If there is such a thing as a core of Islamic style which forms a common language for artists everywhere from Senegal to Jordan to Indonesia, what are the definable traits and values of this Islamic style? What forms of Islamic art could one categorise as traditional and what forms could be characterised as modern?

Jordanian artists who met with Dr. Itar at the Association of Plastic Artists in Amman bargained him with similar questions, and all to the same effect: What do you mean when you say "modern Islamic art?"

His answer was straightforward. With the vast array of topics on the subject which still remain unexplored by eastern as well as western scholars, "we simply do not know. For now, we can only ask."

Mimi back to future, Khammash still fashionable

By Salameh Ne'matt

For someone who has been, for 15 years, closely following the works of Ammar Khammash and Fadi Mimi, now jointly exhibiting at the Spanish Cultural Centre, there are no surprises.

Notwithstanding the fact that the bulk of the paintings sold like hotcakes at the opening last week, and that the works by these two are often gobbled up by collectors as soon as they are produced, the exhibition leaves a lot to be desired for someone who knows (and sometimes collected) their previous work.

Nothing serves to emphasise this point more than an earlier landscape by Mimi, also on exhibit, but not for sale since it was shown as part of Khammash's private collection. Khammash, a close friend to Mimi's, had sawed off the original landscape, done in the early eighties, into six parts, presumably with Mimi's consent. The result is six semi-abstract framed landscapes which luckily maintained some of the power of the original. But the decision to show this landscape made Mimi's recent works pale in comparison and raised many questions about the direction his works have gone since the late seventies and the early eighties.

The sharp and sombre reds, greens and yellows in this older work appeared as if sculpted rather than painted with a brush. The perspective is (was) delightfully confused, with a large naked brown tree trunk and branches in the background and smaller shrubs in the foreground, giving a lopsided sense of distance. The work (now sadly in six parts) was done à la Cezanne: the mass is solid and the colour clean and deep with large one-dimensional flat surfaces.

Among Mimi's more interesting latest is the dream-like landscape of a greyish white house with two solemn-looking cypresses, reminiscent of his expressionist period rather than the exhausted impressionist-pointillist phase. Mimi, however, maintains his detached approach to his immediate environment. Hardly any of his works depicts anything resembling anything we've seen in Jordan, its landscapes and colours. In a way, he reminds us of Matisse who painted through two world wars without allowing that to interfere with his brilliantly-coloured happy works.

Not so with Khammash. The painter, architect, poet, photographer, designer, philosopher, writer, economist, inventor, businessman... the list can go on forever. For he, the 20th century Jordanian equivalent of Leonardo da Vinci, produces a carefully selected menu of "beautiful" interiors depicting his very own house and garden, in addition to a few characteristically Jordanian landscapes and trees — his specialty. There is, undoubtedly, something for every taste: if you're more into figura-

tive art, he has it. If you like some abstraction, make your pick. And if you're looking for something in between (neither, nor), he is your man. There are built-in elements of success in every painting, though he appears to lose perspective of the structure when he does large size as in one of his interiors.

This, nonetheless, means that Khammash and his works hanging at the Spanish centre, are successful, at least by Jordanian standards. But there is always something quite disturbing about an artist's work which gains so much acceptability beyond an apparent measure of controversy. When something is so universally accepted, (especially in a Jordanian context which is lacking in artistic depth), the question remains whether one can take this acceptability for granted or treat it like anything "fashionable" which is popular now but not necessarily in 10 years.

What one might be looking for here is the pioneering quality which makes an artist's work rejected at first and recognised much later (sometimes after his death). This quality is conspicuously missing. Perhaps art has exhausted itself and reached the borders of creativity beyond any artist's ability: to do anything different or new. But does that mean we must keep on reproducing what was done many times before, though in a different context? I have got no answer.

Yeltsin offers deal to Grozny

(Continued from page 1)

that once the crisis was over those who had fled Grozny could return without hindrance.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was also in conciliatory mood, promising the Chechens that they would enjoy all the rights of subjects of the Russian Federation "once elections have taken place."

He told a news conference in Moscow that the Russian constitution provided for wide powers for local government "to say nothing of the possibilities offered by the federation treaty."

Outside Grozny, Chechen volunteers wrapped up against the cold to man hastily dug trenches and bunkers. They said they were ready to hole up overnight in case the Russian troops moved in. "I got my warm clothes out, bought a Kalashnikov on the market and came out here," said Akhmed, a Grozny resident standing beside a bunker in the village of Shaami Yurt about 30 kilometres west of the centre of Grozny.

An elderly villager standing beside him backed him. "Our ancestors were fighting the Russian for 300 years and we can do the same," he said.

In the capital, a town of 400,000 people before refugees flooded out to escape the fighting, the mood was calm. "Chechnya is subject only to Allah," read one banner fluttering over the town. In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Wednesday at least 16,000 people had fled their homes due to fighting in Chechnya and warned the number of displaced people could rise sharply.

The sound of distant shell- ing echoed through the centre and Russian planes flew periodically overhead.

Deputies want to amend law

(Continued from page 1)

termine the number of Palestinians living in Jordan as well as their status as refugees or displaced persons.

Despite the government's efforts, the move puts the government under pressure to submit a bill to Parliament that accommodates the demands of the Lower House. Ms. Faisal said.

Constitutionally, the government should consider the amendments suggested by the Lower House, said one parliamentary expert. "But the government is not Constitutionally bound to stick with what is offered by the amendments — the government has the ability to manoeuvre and interpret the amendments, which is probably what they will do," he said.

According to the constitution, the proposal has to pass through a parliamentary committee, then through the House of

self before it is submitted to the government.

Additionally, Ms. Faisal said, she feared the government would hedge on redrawing constituencies by saying that geographic and demographic elements in the Kingdom make redrawing the constituencies impractical, or, that the government would say that redrawing the constituencies contradicts the new division of the Kingdom into governorates.

"People have to know that [the governorates] do not have to be linked to the electoral law," she said. "There can be two separate divisions — one administrative and one political. Besides, the new divisions have no constitutional basis," she contended.

Although the amendments were officially submitted Dec. 7, the government has yet to publicly voice an opinion of the amendments.

"It seems they were taken by surprise," said Ms. Faisal. "And we are sure they did not like it."

Bahrain students protest

(Continued from page 12)

Tehran that riots had broken out in Jo prison in the south of the Gulf archipelago.

Majma-e-Jahani-e-Ahlebeit, an organisation made up of powerful clergy and close to Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, blasted Bahrain for using "violent methods such as arrests, torture and killings" to stop the unrest.

The spiritual guide of Shiite Muslim fundamentalists in Lebanon, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, said it is not a Shiite-Sunni conflict.

"The rebels are asking for legislative elections and a parliament to make sure the ruling family is not all-powerful," Sheikh Fadlallah said from Beirut.

Iraq slams Ekeus report

(Continued from page 1)

But the report also mentioned problems in the drive to disarm Iraq, including its alleged efforts to hide information concerning its biological and chemical weapons programmes.

Iraq's compliance with U.N. demands is a precondition to the Security Council's lifting of an embargo on sales of Iraqi oil. Diplomats said such a move was unlikely before the middle part of next year at the earliest.

But France, backed up by Russia, China and Spain, urged Iraq to accept a formal statement recognising the progress made by Iraq in dismantling and asking Baghdad to cooperate further.

"The council should react and tell the situation as it is in order to encourage Iraq to continue as far as the positive aspects are concerned and to warn it to do better as far as the negative are concerned," said French envoy Jean-

Bernard Merimee.

Participants reported that during the closed-door meeting, Mr. Merimee said that the goals set by the United Nations after the Gulf war had been nearly met and Iraq no longer had the means to threaten mass destruction.

The French delegation said the negligible quantities of arms which Iraq might have are being destroyed immediately by the U.N. commission and are not militarily significant.

GCC leaders ease stand on Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Al Thawra compared the Saudi government to that of the Shah of Iran before he was toppled by the Islamic revolution in 1979.

The GCC said it was "concerned about extremism, violence and terrorism," and urged countries to "counter this destructive phenomenon which is not at all compatible with Islam."

Oman had denounced "fanaticism" and recommended "tolerance and

coexistence between religions."

The GCC urged Iran to agree to take its border dispute with the United Arab Emirates over the strategic Gulf Islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

Officials who requested anonymity said the summit closed several hours late because of differences over how to resolve territorial disputes

among member states.

Kuwait had proposed a draft create a body tasked with settling border disputes, particularly those between Qatar and Bahrain on the one hand and Qatar and Saudi Arabia, the officials said.

Qatar rejected the draft. However, the six countries reached a compromise on a procedure to settle such conflicts, they said without giving details.

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Israel and PLO to hold secret security talks

(Continued from page 1)

Bank if soldiers were to leave many of their posts.

"As a compromise, the Israelis reportedly offered to pull out gradually, with some reports citing the West Bank towns of Jenin and Bethlehem as the first candidates for withdrawal.

Mr. Peres refused comment Wednesday when asked whether he brought up the idea and how Mr. Arafat responded.

"We discussed principles, not places," Mr. Peres told Israel TV. "We didn't discuss maps."

But Palestinian officials

said before the meeting that Mr. Arafat was ready to consider a gradual pullout under certain conditions.

"If they provide us with a timetable for redeployment, we are ready to discuss it," Azmi Shuaib, a member of the Palestinian self-rule government, told the Associated Press.

"This will be a subject of negotiations generally, there are no specifics," he said. "What is important is that we are putting in our consideration the Israeli need for security, especially in the second stage."

An Israeli foreign ministry official earlier said Israel would stay firm on a partial

pullout of its troops from the West Bank initially.

But in return Mr. Peres may offer Arafat concessions over the elections, the official added.

These could include allowing free elections for the head of the Palestinian self-rule authority, Mr. Arafat having been appointed by the PLO, and a certain flexibility on the makeup of the new council to run self-rule.

The Palestinians want a 120-member council with legislative and executive roles. But at the beginning of talks, Israel suggested it should have just 20 to 30 members and a mainly administrative role.

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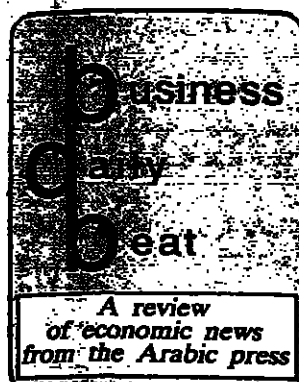
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Ministry of Supply to distribute U.S. rice

Minister of Supply Adel Qudus emphasized that the private sector will not be allowed to import basic foodstuffs especially rice, sugar and wheat. He said the private sector had been allowed to import some foodstuffs like chickpeas and powder milk and may be permitted to import lentils in light of local output. Mr. Qudus said his ministry has stopped importing frozen chicken and olive oil to give priority to local farmers to market their production and has left the price of the two items to the mechanism of the market. The minister said that American rice was purchased recently and it will be distributed soon. As to the possibility of importing salt, the minister pointed out that the Al Azraq Society has a concession to supply the market with salt and that specialized committees are now reviewing the specifications of this product. Asked about prices of car spare parts, the minister said that a new formula was being worked out to fix the prices in light of the reduction in customs tariffs (Al Dustour).

★A committee at the Ministry of Supply is studying the dairy industry and prices will be amended according to the outcome of the study (Al Dustour).

★According to an official source, prices of vegetables and fruits will be floated next year. Meanwhile, the head of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation said that low supply and high demand for produce are behind the price rises in the market (Sawt Al Shaab).

★The storage capacity of the dams in the Kingdom is only 140 million cubic metres. The volume is only three per cent of the amount of the average rainfall the country receives each year (Sawt Al Shaab).

★A new income tax directorate for east Amman has been opened to serve residents of northern and southern Marka, Jabal Al Naser, Nadi Al Sibaq, the Alia quarter, Hamman, Al Yarmouk, northern and southern Hashemi and Al Mahata. The Income Tax Directorate for South Amman has become the new name of the directorate which previously had the name of "East Amman" (Al Rai).

★The daily average of water consumption during summer months amounts to 300,000 cubic metres.

★The Amman Chamber of Industry will organise a seminar from Jan. 22 to Jan. 24-1995 to expand the awareness on the benefits granted to Jordanian exporters by countries applying the generalised preferential system. The seminar, organised in cooperation with UNCTAD and the Italian government, will explain the methods of export to the U.S., Japan and Italy (Al Dustour).

★The technical committees at the Jordan Electricity Authority, in cooperation with foreign consultants, are continuing reviews of tendered offers for the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Project which will cost about \$200 million (Al Dustour).

★Royal Jordanian will soon be putting small aircraft on its Amman-Aqaba flights as well as to and from Irbid, Al Ghazal, Beirut and Damascus (Al Dustour).

GCC airlines look to unified cargo handling rate

DUBAI (R) — Arab Gulf cargo carriers hope to eventually unify cargo handling rates, a representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) air cargo committee has said. "We are working on a unified tariff for cargo handling at the various GCC airports," cargo operations manager at Dubai government-owned airline Emirates, Mohammad Mattar said. "But the problem is that different airports have different facilities and thus charge different rates. The plan is in its infancy at the moment," he added. Mr. Mattar was speaking to Reuters in an interview after a GCC air cargo committee meeting which ended in Dubai. He said representatives of four of six GCC national carriers — Saudia, Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air and Emirates — and a GCC general secretariat member were present at two-day conference. Newly-established Oman Airways and Qatar Airways were not represented at the meeting. Mr. Mattar said the committee had decided to review all services provided at GCC airports: "We are trying to appoint a committee to go to all the GCC airports and do an audit of services, facilities and charges. "Ultimately we look for standardising different procedures and equipment," he pointed out. Mr. Mattar said the group was committed to improving information flows between carriers and improving GCC airline relations. At the meeting, the policy of giving preference to other GCC carriers when dealing in air space, was reiterated. "We decided that whenever possible and feasible from an economic point of view, we will give preference to GCC carriers," he said. The group was also considering a number of cargo reservation systems for installation gulf-wide. "We are looking at various reservation systems to see whether they're suitable," he said. Asked whether the recently-introduced equation cargo community system, developed by Emirates and its sister company Dnata to automate cargo data transmission, would be implemented throughout the GCC, he said "if others are interested we'd be happy for them to use it." He said most GCC countries used the CITA FASTV system for cargo reservations. "We don't want to replace it, but we're always on the lookout for other systems which can be cost effective and give us what we want."

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 20/12/94	Tokyo Close 21/12/94
Swiss Franc	1.5605	1.5602**
Deutsche Mark	1.5702	1.5718
Swiss Franc	1.5610	1.5603**
French Franc	5.4140	5.4233**
Japanese Yen	100.17	100.22
European Currency Unit	1.2138	1.2124**

Interbank Foreign Rates

Date: 21/12/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.75	6.06	6.06	7.06
Swiss Franc	5.68	6.12	6.08	7.25
Deutsche Mark	5.18	5.18	5.25	5.62
Swiss Franc	5.43	4.00	4.25	4.56
French Franc	5.43	5.98	6.31	6.75
Japanese Yen	2.15	2.18	2.37	2.42
European Currency Unit	6.25	6.38	6.58	7.00

Precious Metals

Date: 21/12/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	342.50	4.39	Silver	4.85	0.110

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 21/12/1994

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040
Sterling Pound	1.0935	1.0950
Deutsche Mark	0.6681	0.6683
Swiss Franc	0.5974	0.5980
French Franc	0.1294	0.1300
Japanese Yen	0.0099	0.0104
Dutch Guilder	0.3986	0.4006
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies

Date: 21/12/1994

Currency	Buy	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.4400	1.4420
Lebanese Lira	0.041245	0.042585
Saudi Riyal	0.1860	0.1879
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3030	2.3060
Qatari Riyal	0.1916	0.1929
Egyptian Pound	0.0000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.6660	1.6740
UAE Dirham	0.1905	0.1915
Greek Drachma	0.2630	0.3175
Cypriot Pound	1.4050	1.5340

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3932/42	Deutsche marks
1.5702/12	Dutch guilders
1.7582/92	Swiss francs
1.3288/98	Belgian francs
32.28/32	French francs
5.4175/25	Italian lire
1645.8/6.8	Japanese yen
100.12/22	Swedish crowns
7.4980/00	Norwegian crowns
6.8570/20	Danish crowns
6.1645/95	
\$1.5586/96	
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	

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COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	1440	264255	183.500	183.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	254480	1145114	4.430	4.430
BANK OF JORDAN	1150	4406	3.810	3.820
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	3200	5133	1.550	1.620
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2725	8119	2.980	2.980
THE HOUSING BANK	2150	11830	5.420	5.510
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	2094	6285	3.010	3.000
JORDAN GULF BANK	5400	8944	1.640	1.680
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	12564	46245	3.640	3.700
BUSINESS BANK	4000	14800	3.700	3.670
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	60050	295744	4.860	4.870
HEIT KHALI SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1100	3436	3.110	3.120
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	49450	75305	1.510	1.520
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	3600	6168	1.690	1.730
BANKS SECTOR	403452	1896089	INDEX NUMBER: 159.21	CHANGE: +0.38%
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	1000	1920	1.920	1.920
JORDAN SEAS INSURANCE	900	2280	2.560	2.560
AL-NISR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	660	2878	4.310	4.400
INSURANCE SECTOR	2560	7078	INDEX NUMBER: 137.08	CHANGE: +0.61%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	10397	16132	1.540	1.550
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	12950	19647	1.510	1.520
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	9000	54225	6.040	6.050
TREED DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	450	419	0.950	0.930
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE	2600	1532	1.000	1.000
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	3400	10741	3.150	3.140
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	4450	10814	2.410	2.420
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	950	1302	1.350	1.370
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	4150	8221	1.250	1.250
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	700	749	1.070	1.070
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCE HOTELS	15571	38515	2.430	2.470
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	50	168	3.350	3.350
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	280	348	1.230	1.390
SERVICES SECTOR	64918	171391	INDEX NUMBER: 130.41	CHANGE: +0.28%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	97787	285529	2.900	2.920
JORDAN PROSPERITY MINES	12550	34835	2.790	2.800
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	800	1532	1.910	1.910
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	435	4012	9.250	9.230
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1288	5919	4.630	4.600
THE JORDAN MOUSTED MILLS	1083	8551	7.900	7.900
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	3101	17210	5.470	5.550
JORDAN DAIRY	2100	5145	2.370	2.450
NAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	4500	12158	2.700	2.700
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ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	250	1738	7.000	6.950
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16342	15348	930	940
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2950	4117	1.400	1.390
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	2650	2872	1.000	1.000
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1750	5075	2.890	2.900
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	30700	47706	1.540	1.570
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NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	100	545	5.450	5.450
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ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1150	3178	2.740	2.770
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INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	210932	610824	INDEX NUMBER: 128.61	CHANGE: +0.34%
GRAND TOTAL	681862	2685381	INDEX NUMBER: 144.41	CHANGE: +0.36%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 453956				
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 754910				

Aluminium recovery spurs Gulf plans

DOHA (R) — A recovery in world aluminium prices, brought about this year by production restraint, has spurred Gulf oil states to look afresh at dormant plans to build new plants, a leading industry official said Wednesday. "At least three major projects — one in Qatar and two in Saudi Arabia — are receiving renewed attention," the specialist, Mohammad Hisham Khawajkia, told Reuters. Mr. Khawajkia is director of industrial information and coordination at the Qatar-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), formed by Gulf governments to advise them on industrial matters. "These projects were promoted three or four years ago. But they were put on the back burner due to the glut in the world aluminium market and falling prices at that time," he said. "However, an agreement early this year between world aluminium producers to cut output by two million tonnes over two years has boosted prices from \$1,040 a tonne of aluminium in January to \$1,840 in November (and close to \$1,900 now)." "This is serving as an incentive to invest in the aluminium industry," he said. He said that a few days ago GOIC held a meeting that brought together Gulf aluminium producers and other interested parties, including Qatari and Saudi representatives, to review prospects. "There was a renewed interest to develop this industry," Mr. Khawajkia said, noting the cheap energy and labour costs. It was clear, however, that it would still likely take a long time before any plans would be formally agreed, finance would be arranged and construction would begin. The Qatar project — Doha Aluminium (Doha) — is a multinational joint venture conceived several years ago to produce 300,000 tonnes a year. The \$1.3 billion first phase was to produce 150,000 tonnes. The foreign companies which agreed in 1991 to participate in the venture were British Aerospace PLC, Glyndw International PLC, Trafalgar House, all of Britain, and the U.S.-based Southwire Co. Talks with Indian and Australian alumina suppliers have been held since. A committee headed by Qatari Finance, Economy and Trade Minister, Mohammad Bin Khalifa Al Thani was set up to steer the project. He said one of the two Saudi projects had been promoted by the Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) for 240,000 tonnes per year and the other by private sector investors — apparently led by the local Alujain Corp — for 180,000 tonnes. It was not immediately possible to confirm independently a revival of interest. Mr. Khawajkia also said the Gulf's two existing companies, Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) and Dubai Aluminium (Dubai), were planning to expand their capacity to a total of 845,000 tonnes from 705,000 tonnes now. Last year, they produced 692,000 tonnes, about 2.6 per cent of the world total, exporting 518,000 tonnes outside the Gulf. This year Gulf production may drop by four per cent following the producer agreement — which Alba joined — to cut output. "But we hope in the 1995-97 period, with the industrial recovery taking place in developed countries and industrialisation gaining momentum in developing countries, demand for aluminium might go up by 2.5 per cent to five per cent and prices may rise further," Mr. Khawajkia said.

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Atlanta Olympics

IOC limits Jordan's delegation to 6 athletes

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The number of Jordanian athletes who will represent the Kingdom at the 1996 Olympic Games has been narrowed down to only six and even they will have to attend a six month training programme to qualify for the event.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Mouaffaq Al Fawwaz, the secretary-general of the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC), expressed his dissatisfaction at the way current Olympics officials were violating the spirit of the Olympic charter by placing varied limitations that would hinder the participation of developing countries.

"This attitude is violating the universality of the games. The Olympics are meant to bring together athletes from all over the world. To break cultural barriers, and create more understanding between different nations" he noted.

Dr. Fawwaz and Minister of Youth Fawwaz Abul Ghanam have just returned from Atlanta after representing Jordan at the

general assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) where over 1,000 delegates from 196 countries attended the meetings. They also toured the site of the Games and attended meetings of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has already begun its countdown for the Games. Final preparations for venues, security and a host of other issues are being finalised. In addition, the maximum number of athletes has been set at 10,000, thus placing a clear limitation on the number of athletes from each country.

Dr. Fawwaz said that developing countries whose athletes do not sometimes meet eligibility requirements because of their records were given the chance to participate with six athletes provided they represent different sports. However the IOC has given these countries a chance to upgrade their standards by providing their top six athletes with six-month training programmes whose cost would be totally covered by the

international body.

The IOC will cover expenses of lodging and participation of six athletes and two administrators at the Games. It will also raise its annual grant to the national Olympic committees. The JOC will receive \$15,000, in addition to \$36,000 for coaching programmes.

Dr. Fawwaz said that the JOC should ensure that the most promising athletes will represent the Kingdom and that respective sports federations will be asked very soon to make their choices so that athletes will have sufficient time to prepare.

"We have to make sure that we send the very best and qualified athletes to the IOC training programmes and then decide who will be eligible to go," Dr. Fawwaz added.

Dr. Fawwaz said that the OCA meetings concentrated on the doping issue especially after 11 members of the Chinese delegation at the Asian Games recently tested positive and were suspended.

Jordan had only one such case two years ago when a weightlifter tested positive and was later suspended. The exact details of the case were not disclosed but it later turned out that the athlete was given a muscle strengthening substance by his coach.

The Atlanta Olympics will be the fifth time Jordan takes part in the Summer Games, after taking part in the previous four events held in Barcelona, Seoul, Los Angeles and Moscow.

WOMEN'S TENNIS 1994

Navratilova takes her final bow; Spanish players enjoy marvellous season

PARIS (AFP) — From the start Martina Navratilova was always going to be the major story in women's tennis in 1994.

The Czech-born American, facing a 38th birthday in October and having dominated the game for more than two decades, made it clear in January that she intended to retire at the end of the year — come what May.

Her final season reaped one more title, a victory at the Paris Indoor Open in February, to swell her astonishing record total of career singles wins to 167, but her bid for a tenth Wimbledon crown just failed.

Playing in her 22nd consecutive campaign at the All England Club, Navratilova surged through to the final, but hopes of a fairy tale ending were thwarted when she lost to surprise opponent Conchita Martinez. The Spaniard, who had also beaten Navratilova in the Italian Open final two months earlier, scored a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win.

Navratilova, who won 55 Grand Slam titles and who reigned as world number-one for a record 332 consecutive weeks back in 1982, was still ranked eighth when she made an emotional farewell at the WTA's end-of-season Championships at Madison Square Garden where she was beaten in the first round by eventual winner Gabriela Sabatini.

Steffi Graf, still carrying the credibility of women's tennis largely single-handed after the stabbing on court of arch-rival Monica Seles in Hamburg in April 1993, started the year like an express train.

With no sign of Seles returning, Graf didn't drop a set and lost only 28 games as she raced to her fourth Australian Open title and she continued to sweep all before her until she was beaten by a "new-look" Mary Pierce in the semi-finals at the French Open.

That was when things began to go wrong.

A shock first-round defeat at Wimbledon against the experienced American Lori McNeil was followed by a decision to skip the Federation Cup finals in Frankfurt, and although the German player stormed back to win San Diego in August by out-playing major rival Arantxa Sanchez 6-2, 6-1 — the Spaniard got her own back by beating Graf in the final at the United States Open the following month.

For the rest of the season Graf struggled. Back and foot injuries aggravated her bid to recapture her form and she lost again to Pierce in the semi-finals at the WTA Championships.

Spanish players enjoyed a marvellous season. Apart from winning the French Open, Wimbledon and the United States Open between them, Sanchez and Martinez joined forces to retain the Federation Cup — beating the United States 3-0 in the final inside Frankfurt's Waldstadion without dropping a set.

With Seles absent, Navratilova retiring and Graf showing signs of wear and tear, the season was marked by a search for new stars.

The big-hitting, 15-year-old Pierce who had separated from her controversial and often violent father twelve

months before, looked as though she might fit the bill.

Formerly tense and unsmiling, the Canadian-born French number-one turned up at Roland Garros with new American coach Nick Bollettieri looking a completely different player.

Relaxed and happy, and clearly enjoying her training sessions and new-found popularity with the French crowds, Pierce stormed through the French Open draw dropping only six games to reach a semi-final showdown with Graf.

She didn't stop there. She hammered out a 6-2, 6-2 win against the world number-one and would probably have done the same against Sanchez in the final had rain not forced the match to be postponed for 24 hours. As it was Pierce, who led 3-1 in the first set, was eventually beaten 4-6, 4-6.

Three weeks later Pierce made a tearful exit from Wimbledon without hitting a ball after coming under relentless pressure from Britain's tabloid newspapers eager to exploit her father's criminal past.

Reports that one of the newspapers was planning to smuggle the father, a convicted bank robber who was banned from attending all tournaments after being ejected from the 1993 French Open, into the All England Club proved to be the final straw. Pierce withdrew and went into hiding with her French mother Yvonne.

Many top players were openly sceptical about Pierce's motives and Billie Jean King led an ugly slur campaign by openly accusing the teenager of withdrawing

because she couldn't play on grass.

There were fears for the health of young players joining the tour too soon, prompted by the shock decline of Olympic champion Jennifer Capriati.

Capriati, who had joined the tour as a 14-year-old, stopped playing after losing in the first round of the United States Open but reports filtered through that things were not what they should be. First the 18-year-old American was arrested for shoplifting and then on drugs charges.

Capriati's problems prompted the WTA to announce the raising of the age limit for players to join the tour. From 1995, players will only be allowed to play on the tour on an unrestricted basis when they are 18.

The deadline for the rule-change prompted two 14-year-olds to make their professional debuts.

Switzerland's Martina Hingis, twice the French Open junior champion, joined the tour at Zurich in October and by the end of the season she had already risen to 87th in the rankings.

The other newcomer was 6ft 2in American Venus Williams who had apparently turned professional against the wishes of her parents.

Williams, brought up in a tough Los Angeles ghetto and with an equally-promising younger sister Serena in the pipeline, hadn't played a tournament since she was 11 years old. But she exploded on the scene in Oakland in November by beating the experienced 25-year-old Shaun Stafford in the first round and then led Sanchez 6-2, 3-1 in the second, before losing concentration and eleven games in a row.

Jana Novotna, who had

made the headlines in 1993 by weeping on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent after losing the Wimbledon final, nursed a recurring shoulder injury for much of the season. But the Czech player finished fourth in the rankings after an excellent late season in which she won three straight tournaments (Essen, Leipzig and Brighton) and reached the quarter-finals at the WTA Championships.

One of the year's brightest prospects was the powerful 6ft 2in, 18-year-old American Lindsay Davenport — a quarter-finalist at Wimbledon and finalist at the ATP Championships. Davenport, who also led the United States to the Federation Cup final, had put her education first and graduated from Murrieta Valley High School to be a late-starter in professional tennis in February 1993. But she made up for lost time and finished the season in sixth place in the rankings.

Japan also had a "top-ten" player in Kimiko Date who completed another successful season at world number-nine. Date reached the semi-finals at the ATP Championships, which provided the biggest surprise and probably most popular winner of the season in Gabriela Sabatini.

The glamorous 24-year-old South American, written off as an "also-ran" after another winless year, brought the curtain down with a stunning victory at Madison Square Garden. It was Sabatini's first victory on the tour since her triumph at the Italian Open in May 1992.

The season also saw the retirement of Tracy Austin. The 31-year-old, who became the youngest player to win the United States Open in 1979 as a 16-year-old before being plagued by injuries.

BITS & PIECES

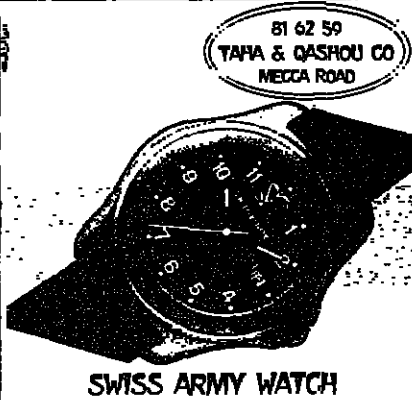
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- The non-refundable fee for each set of tender documents will be JD 500.
- The latest date set for the purchase of tender documents by the eligible bidders is January 23rd, 1995.
- A prebid conference will be held at the Water Authority's main offices in Amman at 900 hour, Jordan local time, on Monday 23rd January 1995.
- Bids are due not later than 1200 hours, Jordan Local Time, on Saturday, February 18th, 1995, to the office of the Government Tenders Directorate.

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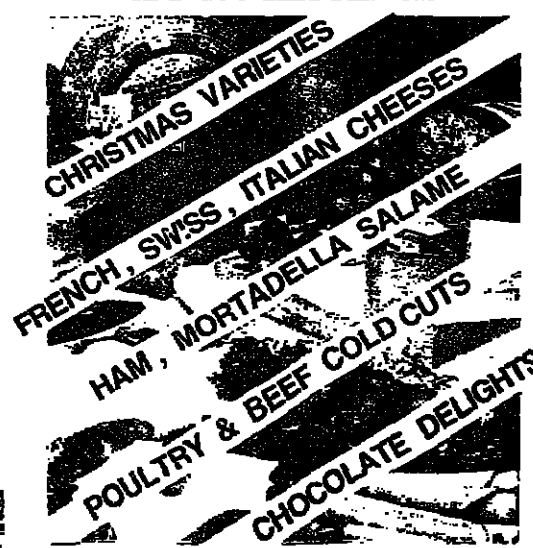
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♦ 7 4 3
♣ 5 2
WEST
♠ K J 8 2
♥ 8 6
♦ 10 8 6
♣ 10 9 8
EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ Q J 10 9 4
♦ Q 5
♣ 7 6 4 3
SOUTH
♠ A Q 10
♥ 8 3
♦ A J 9 2
♣ A K Q J

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1 NT Pass 1 Pass
3 NT Pass 1 Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♠
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with the play.
Declarer won the opening lead, entered dummy with the king of hearts and finessed the ten of spades. West won with the jack and returned a club. Declarer now crossed to the table with the remaining high heart and tried another spade finesse. When that, too, lost, there were no more than eight tricks to be had.
Declarer was unlucky to find both spade honors wrong—East was a 2-1 favorite to hold one. And yes, double dummy the hand can be made by stripping West of exit cards in hearts and clubs before taking the first spade finesse. But there is a sure-trick line for the contract—the ninth trick is right under your nose.
The key card is dummy's nine of spades. That can be established by force. After winning the first trick, declarer should simply play the ace and queen of spades. When declarer regains the lead, the ten of spades forces out the jack and the nine is high, while there is at least one heart entry in dummy. In all, declarer collects two spade tricks, two hearts, at least one diamond and four clubs. That's nine tricks any way you count them.

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Senator tells baseball owners to deal

WASHINGTON (R) — Major League Baseball players and owners, under threat of a midnight Thursday deadline set by the owners, resumed talks Tuesday in a bid to settle the longest stoppage in U.S. sports history.

An added twist to the talks was a key Republican senator's warning to the owners not to try to break the Players' Union.

"If I get the impression that the owners are going to break the players' union, then I'm not going to sit idly by and let that go," Senator Orrin Hatch told ESPN, the sports television network.

Hatch is the incoming republican chairman of the powerful senate judiciary committee, which can rewrite laws that exempt baseball from monopoly regulations.

The owners voted, 25-3, last Thursday to declare an impasse in their negotiations with the Players Association but decided to delay implementing their final offer, including a salary cap and elimination of salary arbitration, both bitterly opposed by the players.

If the owners impose New York rules, the players are expected to file an unfair labour practice charge with the national labour relations board and seek an injunction to prevent implementation of the cap, claiming the owners did not bargain in good faith.

Hatch's comments appeared to signal a more activist attitude of the incoming Republican majority which takes over next month.

President Bill Clinton and the Democrats who lost control of the Congress in the November elections have essentially stayed away from the baseball dispute.

"It's time to make a deal if we want one," Jerry McNorris, an owner of the Colorado Rockies said as he arrived for the talks. "There are ways to settle this."

World Cup opportunity lost for U.S. soccer

WASHINGTON (AFP) — American organisers provided a first-rate World Cup this year, but then squandered a golden opportunity to capitalise on the unprecedented interest with an elite U.S. League.

The 24-team championship played to 3.5 million spectators in nine cities, providing front-page news and commanding major television attention.

Even golf and baseball were overshadowed by the exploits of Brazil, Italy and others. But the memories have faded quickly. Football is rarely mentioned now that basketball and American football season are well under way.

Even baseball and hockey shutdowns did not create room for football because no U.S. league was there to fill the void. FIFA-backed Major League Soccer (MLS), run by World Cup chairman Alan Rothenberg, was put on hold until April of 1996, the same month a new U.S. baseball league plans to start.

"Nobody could have predicted the situation the U.S. sports community is in now," U.S. World Cup defender Alexi Lalas said.

"I'm still very optimistic. But just from what I've been hearing, there's so much negative energy. Organisers are going against a country of other sports."

Rothenberg went from the World Cup to surviving a political fight to remain president of the U.S. Soccer Federation. U.S. indoor and outdoor low-level leagues fought against Rothenberg, who won with support of youth football leaders.

Critics said Rothenberg should not be running the league and the U.S. organisation, saying others could have had a league ready for next April as had been projected.

Rothenberg said MLS would keep the momentum of the World Cup, then announced the delay until 1996, ending any

hope of lingering support from the world's most popular sports event on a skeptical U.S. audience.

FIFA gave a letter of support, but their goal of a U.S. league in place after the World Cup went unfulfilled.

"Like a fine wine, you only open it when it is ready," said Stu Subotnick, owner of the MLS team in the New York area.

"We've looked at some of the mistakes that were made in the past and we wanted to make sure they didn't happen again. Soccer has been an orphan in our country too long. We want it to last for centuries."

Pele had similar dreams 20 years ago when he played in the North American Soccer League (NASL), which died a decade ago.

"The failure of the NASL scared off a lot of potential investors," said Marc Rapoport, the owner of a Los Angeles MLS team.

"The World Cup showed maybe things have changed."

Rothenberg promises several international matches in MLS markets in 1995 to sustain interest, but two of the league's 10 debut cities have not even been decided yet.

Plans to start with 12 clubs died for lack of financial support and some advertisers have already been alienated.

A brewing company was unhappy that Rothenberg briefly sought a beer ban at World Cup matches. A credit card firm sued when organisers violated their exclusivity contract by allowing phone sponsors to produce World Cup billing cards. No shoe or clothes maker would pay two million dollars to be the sole MLS suppliers.

A plan to limit salaries to \$1.3 million has been criticised by players as too little to attract the top players U.S. fans would demand. Plans to experiment with rule changes also bring worries.

China committed to anti-doping campaign

BEIJING (R) — China said Wednesday its suspension of 11 athletes found to have used banned drugs demonstrated its vigilance against doping in sport.

"Absolute opposition to the use of performance-enhancing drugs is the resolute position of China's sports world," the official China Sports Daily said in a front-page commentary.

Chinese officials have denied international allegations of systematic doping.

China Tuesday announced the suspension of 11 top competitors, including seven swimmers, for up to four years after they tested positive for banned drugs at October's Asian Games in Hiroshima.

The Olympic Council of Asia stripped the 11 of their Asian Games medals after their urine samples showed traces of the banned anabolic steroid dehydrotestosterone.

"This news aroused top-level attention in the Chinese Olympic Committee the minute it arrived," the newspaper said.

"Along with the sincere inquiry and strict handling, all kinds of effective measures are being implemented to deepen the unswerving struggle against the use of performance-enhancing drugs."

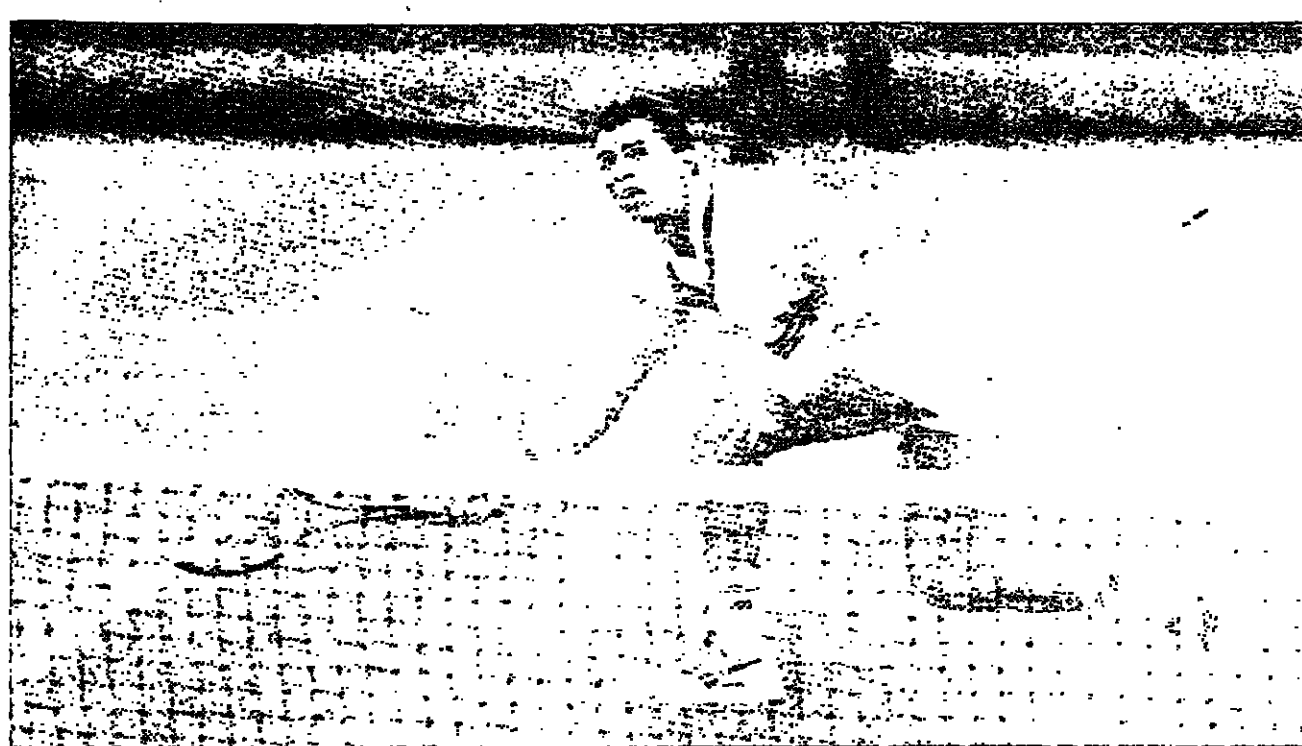
The suspensions accorded with standard penalties adopted by world swimming's governing body FINA and

other international federations.

World champions Yang Aihua and Lu Bin and fellow woman swimmer Zhou Guanbin as well as men swimmers Xiong Guomin, Hu Bin, Zhang Bin and Fu Yong have all been suspended for two years.

The Chinese Track and Field Association banned hurdler Han Qing, a woman, for four years.

Canoeists Zhang Lei and Qiu Suoren, both men, were banned for two years by the Chinese Canoe Association and cyclist Wang Yan, a woman, was banished for six months by the Chinese Cycling Association, China Sports Daily said.



Ivan Lendl

Ivan Lendl announces retirement

NEW YORK (AFP) — Ivan Lendl, one of the most successful tennis players of all time, announced the end of his career on Tuesday, after a long-running struggle against a back problem.

"It's a very difficult and sad time for me and not the way I would have chosen to retire," the Czech-born American said in a telephone conference call.

"I enjoyed playing the game, had a lot of great times, and I will miss it."

Lendl, who held the world number one spot for a record 270 weeks — 157 of them consecutive, has reached his decision after being told by his doctor that his back was not going to improve.

He dropped out of the top 10 last year for the first time since he started on the professional tour in 1979, and has been unable to rediscover his old form. He has slipped to 34th in the current rankings.

Lendl's decision to quit, at the age of 34, has clearly been a painful one. But there appeared to be little choice for the man from Ostrava. "It is never easy," he said. "It is not something you deal

with every day. But my physician told me my back's not going to get any better."

"After the U.S. Open, I've had more and more problems," he said. "I've tried to play a couple of senior events and found I couldn't do that."

Lendl still holds the ATP record for career prize money, at more than \$20 million, and finished as the Tour's number one during eight different years.

The current number one, Pete Sampras, recently became the first man since Lendl, in 1987, to hold the top slot for 12 consecutive months.

Lendl has won no fewer than eight Grand Slam titles — taking the U.S. three times (1985, 1986, 1987), the French Open three times (1984, 1986, 1987) and the Australian Open twice (1989, 1990).

His only disappointment in the Grand Slam series is to have never won the big one, Wimbledon, although he was a losing finalist in those two magical years of 1986 and 1987.

More recently, his victories have been thin on the

ground. Lendl won only two tournaments in 1993 (Munich and the Tokyo indoor), and failed to win any this year — the first time he had failed to secure any silverware since winning his first title in 1980.

Lendl, who was born on March 7, 1960, was introduced to the game at a very early age by his father, Jiri, a lawyer who was once 15th in Czechoslovakia's rankings.

His mother, Olga, a former national number three, and his mother, Olga, a former national number three, He notched that debut ATP victory at Houston on clay, reached his first Grand Slam final the following year, losing the French Open to Swedish legend Bjorn Borg, and was world number one for the first time by 1983.

Moving Stateside, he set up home in Connecticut in 1984 and obtained U.S. nationality in 1992.

Outside his playing career, Lendl is a keen art collector — he has world's largest collection of posters by turn-of-the-century Czech artist Alphonse Mucha — and owns a sports management company.

After finishing in the top 10 for 13 consecutive years, a

feat bettered only by American Jimmy Connors (16 years), Lendl amassed a total of 94 Tour titles.

His invincibility in the early 1980s was among the greatest that the sport has ever witnessed, thanks partly to coach Tony Roche, who turned him from a quiet, precise baseliner to a tenacious athlete with a booming forehand.

Her retains two formidable winning streaks from the period — 44 matches from October 1981 to February 1982 and 66 indoor matches from October 1981 to January 1983.

Year-end rankings

1978	— 73
1979	— 20
1980	— 6
1981	— 2
1982	— 3
1983	— 2
1984	— 3
1985	— 1
1986	— 1
1987	— 1
1988	— 2
1989	— 1
1990	— 3
1991	— 5
1992	— 8
1993	— 19
1994	— 54

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1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31				

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18 Daily Carols
Choir singing daily carols from 5 to 6 p.m. in the lobby as of December 18th - 24th.

24 Catch the Christmas spirit with candle lights and hot drinks. A Delicious Christmas Eve Dinner will be served plated at AL WALIMA and AL MANSAF for JD 15,000++

25 Traditional Continental & Middle Eastern Salad Bar Market on our Christmas Day Lunch Buffet Menu is served at AL WALIMA and AL MANSAF for JD 13,500++

31 Celebrate New Year's Eve and have a Dinner Buffet at AL MANSAF Restaurant for JD 30,000++

95 Celebrations

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Jordan recovered foreign exchange reserves — Nabulsi

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi has said that Jordan's economic performance was good during 1994 and that the Kingdom had managed to increase its foreign exchange reserves after a decline that was seen during the first half of the year.

Dr. Nabulsi, in an interview broadcast on Jordan Television Tuesday night, said the CBJ believed that Jordan did not need any more commercial banks, local or foreign. However, this did not mean that the CBJ was unresponsive to new ideas. He said banks specialised in certain sectors of the economy — export financing for instance — were welcome.

The CBJ governor said Jordan's foreign exchange reserves now stood at more than \$600 million, the highest since the beginning of the year. The reserves dropped by more than \$300 million in the first six months of the year as a result of a decline in expatriate remittances and a higher demand for foreign currency.

In earlier comments, Dr. Nabulsi has said that the CBJ had found that the so-called flow of foreign currency from Jordan across the River Jordan to the West Bank in return for Jordanian dinars was negligible, at around \$5 million per month, and that this was not the cause of the plunge in reserves as was suggested in some reports.

Dr. Nabulsi said Tuesday that the CBJ had not adopted any specific stand on Israeli commercial banks that might seek to set up operations in Jordan. He said Israeli commercial banks would be treated the same way as foreign banks that operate in the Kingdom and the same banking regulations and rules would apply to them.

On the possibility of the Israeli shekel entering the foreign exchange market in Jordan, Dr. Nabulsi noted that it was not the CBJ's policy to specify the currencies that Jordanian moneychangers could deal in and that it was up to exchange houses themselves to decide whether they wanted to deal in the Israeli currency.

However, he noted, banks in Jordan deal mainly in four or five main foreign currencies and therefore trading in any other currency was rare, if not non-existent.

Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ had to resort to "shock treatment" when it found that credit facilities extended by commercial banks increased by about 20 per cent in 1994 over 1993.

The increase went beyond the ceiling set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the economic restructuring programme being implemented by Jordan. Even without the programme, Jordanian monetary policymakers have been applying brakes on the growth of credit facilities in a move to contain inflation.

Dr. Nabulsi said the "shock treatment" adopted by the Central Bank involved raising the interest rate offered to depositors. The raise was between 2.5 and three per cent on deposits while interest rates for borrowers went by between one and 1.5 per cent. These moves curbed credit, squeezed the profit margin of commercial banks and contributed to the stability of the dinar, the Central Bank governor said.

Egypt and Israel vow to boost peace

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt and Israel said Wednesday they would seize the "golden opportunity" to boost peace in the Middle East at the end of the first official visit here by Israeli President Ezer Weizman.

In a joint statement Mr. Weizman and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said they had faith in "the good prospects for a just and global peace based on resolutions taken by the United Nations."

"Whatever the circumstances we must not miss the current golden opportunity to spread peace in the Middle East,"

Mr. Weizman, who was on his first official visit as Israeli head of state in a bid to rekindle relations with Egypt which have remained cool despite their 1979 peace treaty, held further talks with Mr. Mubarak on Wednesday before leaving Cairo.

"Peace between Egypt and Israel is part of the global peace in the region and should act as an example of cohabitation and reconciliation between the Arabs and Israel," they said.

Egypt was initially isolated by the Arab World after it became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel. But accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Jewish state and Jordan have heralded a new era in the region.

The two leaders stressed the "prime importance of making progress without any delay on the path to peace and express their hopes of overcoming the obstacles which are hindering Israeli-PLO negotiations and Israeli-Syrian talks."

Meanwhile, Mr. Mubarak told Israeli television late Tuesday that any future visit to Israel did not "present any problems."

Mr. Mubarak has never visited Israel since his election in 1981.

Foreign Minister Amr Musa said in an interview with the daily Al-Ahram on Wednesday that a visit by Mr. Mubarak to Israel was "closer than ever."

"I don't see any problems in coming to Israel and I don't need for that a preparatory visit to Cairo by any Israeli counterpart," Mr. Mubarak told Israeli television.

In their joint statement at the end of Mr. Weizman's three-day visit the two leaders maintained "the need to boost mutual understanding and cooperation between our two countries in every sphere."

Mr. Weizman, who was defence minister when his country and Egypt signed their peace treaty in 1979, held three rounds of talks with Mr. Mubarak on the Middle East peace process and also met Egyptian ministers during his visit.

Opposition newspapers said on Wednesday that both Sheikh Gad Al-Haq Ali Gad Al-Haq of Al-Azhar, one of the Sunni Muslim world's most prominent institutions, and Pope Shenouda of the Coptic Church refused to meet Mr. Weizman.

Their refusal showed the reserved attitude many Egyptians still have towards Israel despite 15 years of peace.

The Syrian ambassador, whose country has yet to make progress in three years of talks with Israel, refused to attend a reception for Mr. Weizman, calling the Jewish state an aggressor.

Culture Minister Farouk Hosni, who has not visited Israel despite several trips to Cairo by his Israeli counterpart, told Mr. Weizman it was up to artists and intellectuals to normalise cultural relations.

In a joint meeting last week Egypt's main opposition parties unanimously rejected warmer relations with Israel. Their papers regularly carry statements by actors, artists and intellectuals saying they would never visit the Jewish state.

Last month's Cairo International Film Festival, whose director refuses to let Israel take part, opened with a film depicting an Egyptian marine attack on the Israeli port of Eilat.

Israel is also barred from Cairo's Annual International Book Fair, allegedly for security reasons.

During his visit Mr. Weizman met the Egyptian ministers of foreign affairs, agriculture, defence and information. He also went to an industrial city north of Cairo.

Foreign Minister Musa said Egypt and Israel had discussed an Egyptian request to cut the costs of the multinational force that monitors the Egyptian-Israeli border.

Subversion trial verdict

A MAN lies on the ground outside the State Security Court in Amman on Wednesday after fainting upon hearing that one of his relatives has been sentenced to death among 11 in a trial of 25 people, 18 of whom were found guilty of subversion, carrying out bomb attacks and illegally possessing arms and explosives (see story on page one) (photo by Yousef Allan)



456 Israeli tour operators visit Aqaba, Petra to explore business possibilities

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

PETRA — A group of nearly 500 Israeli tour operators paid a one-day visit to Jordan on Wednesday as part of joint Jordanian-Israeli efforts to develop joint tourism packages following the signing of their peace treaty on Oct. 26.

The group of 456 tour operators, which visited Aqaba and Petra, was the first such team to come to the Kingdom, which has signed an accord with Israel to offer joint packages to American tourists.

Such packages would include the ancient city of Petra but with clear plans to preserve the ruins at the rose-red Nabatean city, said Ghassan Mifteh, secretary-general of

the Ministry of Tourism. "We have discussed future plans with the Israeli ministry of tourism and our focus will be on preserving Petra," Mr. Mifteh told the Jordan Times. The ministry has set aside an allocation for the project and intends to announce the details "some time next week," he said.

Eli Gonen, Mr. Mifteh's Israeli counterpart, expressed the optimism behind the Israeli team's visit to Jordan, particularly Petra, a magnet for Israeli tourists.

"Petra is a wonderful sight and unique. It is one of the most important sights in the world," Mr. Gonen said. "I think it was a very important visit that can promote and increase the number of Israeli tourists coming to Jordan."

Mr. Gonen told the Jordan Times he was also optimistic that Jordan and Israel could

successfully market joint tour packages.

"I spoke to many of the tour agents, and they were very impressed with Petra and the steps the Ministry of Tourism has taken to preserve Petra," he said.

Asked why there were more Israeli tourists visiting Jordan than Jordanians going to Israel, Mr. Gonen said: "I am sure that slowly but surely the traffic will be both ways, and many Jordanians will be visiting Israel. I am sure that Jordanians will feel at home when they visit Israel."

He said tourism was the first stage of cooperation between Israel and Jordan, and "the two countries will work together to promote the region and the economies of both countries will benefit the most."

Members of the Israeli team echoed the optimism

"This is the second time I come to Petra and I am very optimistic about the group's visit, and hope that the visit will give a good impression and encourage more Israeli tourists to visit the country," said Allon Yerushalmi, representative of the Galilee Tours Company which organised the event.

"People are very kind here and they understand the importance of tourism and try to provide good service," Mr. Yerushalmi told the Jordan Times.

Arwa Hijazi of the Tyche Tours and Travels, the company which coordinated the Israeli team's visit with Galilee Tours, said:

"It was a very successful trip and we hope that it would promote tourism to Jordan in the upcoming years."

Weather forecast to improve next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ali Abanda, head of the Department of Meteorology, Wednesday said that the weather was expected to be moderate and relatively warm in the coming few days following the snowstorms and heavy rains of this week.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abanda said, however, Friday marks the beginning of the 40 days of winter which witness the heaviest rainfalls.

The Department of Meteorology said that there would be no change in the weather conditions until Sunday, with temperatures rising to 12 degrees but warned of frost formations Thursday and Friday nights.

Dr. Abanda said that the recent rainfalls were excellent in all regions, exceeding in some cases 200 per cent of the average rainfall for this period of the year and accounting for around 70 to 80 per cent of the annual average in Jordan.

Hashem Shboul, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), said the rains had replenished the King Talal Dam by eight million cubic metres (MCM) of water.

He told Petra that the reservoir behind the King Talal Dam, which has a capacity of 75 MCMs, now contains 58 cms of rain water.

The Wadi Sheib and Kafrein dams are full, the Wadi Al Arab dam has 7.9 MCMs of water out of storage capacity of 17.1 MCMs and the Shashabil Ben Hasneh Dam has 2.3 MCMs out of a capacity of 3.9 MCMs, said Mr. Shboul.

Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irshaidat said Tuesday that the government was planning to build as many dams as possible in order to collect rain and flood water to cater to the country's expected growing needs of water.

Students demonstrate in Bahrain; rights group faults government

NICOSIA (AFP) — Hundreds of students demonstrated Wednesday in the Bahraini capital as a U.S.-based human rights group accused the Gulf state of using excessive force and making arbitrary arrests to crush Shiite protests.

The students, including girls in veils, rallied at Bahrain University to protest the killing of a Shiite Muslim student and classes were suspended, a professor told AFP on condition his name not be used.

Security forces in the Gulf state did not intervene.

Meanwhile Shiite demonstrators in three neighbourhoods of Manama "put up barricades to prevent security forces from entering," an Arab diplomat in Bahrain contacted from Nicosia said Wednesday.

The communities were Al Khamis and Draz in the south and Sanabis in the west.

Manama residents also reported hearing sporadic gunfire coming from Shiite neighbourhoods of the capital.

at on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. "Small bands of Shiites are still clashing with security forces and throwing stones at police," who are armed with assault rifles and tear-gas, a resident said.

"Tension is still high in several areas of the country" and anti-riot police deployed just outside Shiite neighbourhoods are watching Shiite groups around the clock, the resident added.

According to the opposition in exile, nine people have died in clashes since last week. The authorities in Manama, which has hosted a summit of Gulf Arab leaders since Monday, have only acknowledged one policeman killed.

Several religious figures abroad and the Washington-based Human Rights Watch Middle East on Wednesday condemned the government crackdown, while Egypt accused Iran of trying to spread "Shiite doctrine by force."

In a letter to the emir of Bahrain, Isa Ben Salman Al

Khalifa, Human Rights Watch condemned the "indiscriminate use of lethal force against peaceful demonstrators" and the "collective punishment of whole villages."

And it said there had been "an arbitrary roundup of scores of suspected political activists," without giving an exact number, according to a copy of the letter obtained by AFP.

Violence erupted in Bahrain last week when hundreds of Shiites held protests to demand the release of Shiite cleric Sheikh Ali Salman, arrested after calling for the restoration of parliament, suspended in 1975.

Diplomatic sources in Manama have said 1,600 people have been detained in a wave of arrests in the capital as well as towns and villages with large Shiite communities in the Sunni-led state.

The opposition Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said from

(Continued on page 7)

Dean Rusk dies at 85

ATHENS, Georgia (AP) — Dean Rusk, who was secretary of state under presidents Kennedy and Johnson helped enforce the cold war containment policy of communism with the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Vietnam war, has died. He was 85.

Rusk, the son of a poor Georgia farmer who became the nation's highest cabinet officer, died Tuesday night at his home in Athens, the University of Georgia said Wednesday. He taught at the university's law school after leaving Washington in 1969 and had been in declining health for several years.

Rusk was appointed secretary of state by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. After Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, President Lyndon Johnson insisted Rusk stay on, and Rusk remained secretary until the end of Johnson's term in 1969, despite criticism from Vietnam.

In those eight years, Rusk presided over four major global events: The Bay of Pigs, the Cuban missile crisis, the signing of a nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty with the Soviet Union and the Vietnam war.

Rusk supported Johnson's policy on Vietnam so strongly that he became a favourite and student protesters. Even his son, Richard, called his father "an architect of a war that killed 58,000 Americans and nearly a million Vietnamese."

Rusk defended his role in the Vietnam war in his son's 1990 book, "As I Saw It." "Because of this nation's commitments, I had a duty to perform, to try to prevent North Vietnam from overrunning South Vietnam by force. That was my job and I tried to do it," Rusk said.

Johnson later credited Rusk with developing the proposal that led to the unconditional halt of bombing of North Vietnam in March 1968.

Early in his tenure, in 1961, Rusk was at Kennedy's side when a group of Cuban exiles, supported by the Central Intelligence Agency, tried to invade Cuba's Bay of Pigs to oust Fidel Castro. The invasion was a fiasco.

Rusk was there when East Germany began building the Berlin Wall to separate the east and west sections of the city, and he was in the centre of the Cuban missile encounter in 1962.

The world held its breath when Kennedy ordered Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev to dismantle Cuban missile sites aimed at The United States. Kennedy's advisers were split between reacting harshly or cautiously if Khrushchev failed to respond.

When he sensed that Khrushchev had begun to back down, Rusk summed it up with his quotation: "We're standing eyeball to eyeball, and the other fellow just blinked."

Ben Baz says peace with Israel possible

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority for the first time on Wednesday said peace was possible between Arabs and Israelis as it was not against the teachings of Islam.

The country's mufti, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Baz, said in an interview to be published in the Saudi weekly Al-Muslimeen that "a permanent or temporary ceasefire with the enemy is tolerated, if rulers see an interest in it."

"But it can be broken if the need disappears," added the mufti who heads the country's highest religious body, the Council of Ulama, which wields a large influence over state policies.

The mufti, who was questioned on the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal and the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, added that he was also not opposed to Muslims visiting holy sites in occupied Arab East Jerusalem.

"Visiting Al Aqsa Mosque as much as possible is a tradition from the Prophet Mohammad," he said in the interview to be published Friday, a copy of which was received by AFP.

Jerusalem is the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

Since the June 1967 Arab-

Israel, 12 Arab states reach pact to reduce tensions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel and 12 Arab countries have reached agreement on two measures designed to reduce Middle East tensions, U.S. officials have said.

One provides for advance notification of exercises involving more than 4,000 troops or 110 tanks. The other calls for exchanging military information.

Fred Axelgard, the State Department official who oversaw the agreements reached last week in Tunisia, said Tuesday that the refusal of Syria and Lebanon to participate minimises their importance.

Still, he called the agreement "a very significant undertaking" in confidence-building between old adversaries.

The talks were held as part of the Middle East peace process that has produced a treaty between Israel and Jordan and agreements on Palestinian self-rule between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The 12 Arab countries agreeing to the tension-reducing steps are Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. A Palestinian delegation also approved the measures.

Egypt, meanwhile, is demanding that the Middle East be established as a nuclear-free zone and that Israel open its nuclear facilities. Israel is widely suspected of having either developed or having the technical to produce nuclear weapons.

The Egyptian drive drew a sharp response Tuesday from Moshe Hirsch, a former Israeli defence and foreign minister who spoke to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a private research group.

He said Egypt seemed to be looking for something to argue about. "It's just a stick to beat Israel with," Mr. Arens said.

"I've been disappointed and surprised."

Egypt is expected to step up its campaign next spring when the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is up for review. Israel has refused to sign the accord, which calls for international inspection of suspect facilities.

The treaty has been extended in five-year intervals, but Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the Clinton administration would push for an indefinite extension.

COLUMN

Dutch prince' condition improves

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The health of the Netherlands' ailing Prince Bernhard improved slightly Tuesday, but doctors warned against over-optimism, the Dutch Royal Information Service said. The 83-year-old prince, father of Queen Beatrix, has a pulmonary infection following an operation on Nov. 26 for a colonic tumour in a Utrecht hospital. Doctors have taken the prince off sedatives, hoping this will speed up his recovery, but he was being placed on an artificial respirator, the information service said. He was visited yesterday by his wife, the former Queen Juliana.

Filipino abductors free ex-official's daughter

MANILA (R) — Kidnappers have freed the 20-year-old daughter of a former Philippine Central Bank governor without a ransom being paid, her father said Wednesday.

Jaime Laya, also a former minister of education and finance, told a Manila radio station his daughter Sandra had been freed Tuesday night at a bus station in Olongapo, north of the capital. She was kidnapped in Manila Thursday on her way to the University of the Philippines, where she is a third-year business administration student.

Mr. Laya told the radio station Sandra had telephoned him Friday to say the kidnappers wanted a five million peso ransom (over \$200,000). She called again Tuesday night to say she had been set free. No ransom was paid, Mr. Laya said. The Layas asked Olongapo Congresswoman Katherine Gordon, a family friend, to pick Sandra up. Ms. Gordon said in a separate radio interview she had found the sobbing woman cowering in a dark corner of the bus station.

Indian court bans movie on 'Bandit Queen'

NEW DELHI (R) — A judge banned the screening of a movie on India's legendary bandit, Phoolan Devi, after she sued the producer, saying they had not let her see the film, the Press Trust of India said. The movie was produced by Britain's Channel Four television company.

The Delhi High Court judge told the producers of The Bandit Queen, which made waves at the Cannes Festival last summer, not to show the film in India or abroad before the case was decided, the news agency said. "I hold that the defendants have no right to exhibit the film as produced violating the privacy of the plaintiff's body and person," Judge Vijender Jain was quoted as saying.

Phoolan Devi, born in a low-caste Hindu family, shot to prominence when she led the massacre of 22 high-caste citizens in 1981. Shekhar Kapur, the movie's director, portrays her as a woman who revolted against high-caste exploitation. But the controversial film shows her being raped, something that conservative Indians loathe.

Norwegian princess will not testify in divorce case

OSLO (AFP) — Norway's Princess Marit Louise cannot be called to testify in a British divorce case where the wife accuses her husband of adultery with the royal daughter, the office of the Norwegian attorney general said. According to excerpts of a letter sent by the attorney general's office to the British Foreign Ministry, published in the evening paper Dagbladet, Norway's King Harald V has decided that his daughter will not testify. "His Majesty the King has decided that Princess Marit Louise shall not be held accountable to any court of law. This, in accordance with the constitution, the princess can not answer to charges or give testimony," the letter read.

In March, Irene Morris, 42, summoned the princess to testify in her divorce proceedings, claiming that her husband had committed adultery with the 23-year-old Princess Marit Louise. Princess Marit Louise and Philip Morris met through their interest in riding.